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Do You Bore Yourself?

RIDING on the train the other day, I got to watching a man whose condition was really pathetic.

He had forgotten to bring a book or a magazine; there was no one in the car with whom he could talk. For one of the few times in his life, he was utterly alone in the world; and he was utterly miserable.

Cast on his own resources, he discovered that there were inside him no reservoirs of thought or interest on which his soul could feed.

He was thrown unexpectedly into his own company, and he bored himself terribly.

His was not an exceptional case: on the contrary, he was rather typical of the ordinary modern man.

In olden days, when towns were more scattered, distances greater, and life less complex, men were accustomed to be alone for hours and even days, and could stand it.

The modern man must be talking, or he must be reading, or he must be playing: *anything* lest by accident he be left alone for a little time and compelled to think.

"The world," as Wordsworth said, "is too much with us."

I would not have any man unsocial. He who—like Thoreau—withdraws himself from his fellow men, lessens his service and impoverishes his life, no matter what work of art may come out of his solitude.

But it would do the world good if every man in it would compel himself occasionally to be absolutely alone.

Away from people, who blunt the edges of his personality; away from books and magazines, which give him his thinking pre-digested; away on a long walk, where he could face the world with a naked mind and compel himself to think some things through by himself.

Most of the world's progress has come out of periods of such loneliness.

Moses was a social being, a political leader, whose success was in his power to handle an unruly crowd.

But Moses' great contribution to the world—the Ten Commandments—came down from the mountain-top where he had climbed alone.

It was out of the silence that Samuel's call came to him; and Mohammed's; and Joan of Arc's.

To Lincoln, poor struggling lawyer, there once came an offer from a great railroad to become its general counsel at $10,000 a year.

He did not seek advice, though friends offered it freely. One day he appeared at his office an hour later than usual, and announced that he had made his decision. He had risen early and gone out to the little grove on the edge of Springfield where most of his decisions were made, and there had wrestled the thing out alone.

John C. Calhoun once told a friend that he "had early subjected his mind to such a rigid course of discipline, and had persisted without faltering until he had acquired a perfect control over it; that he could now confine it to any subject as long as he pleased without wandering even for a moment; that it was his habit, when he set out alone for a walk or a ride, to select a subject for reflection, and that he never suffered his attention to wander from it until he was satisfied with its examination."

"How do you wish to be shaved, sir?" Daniel Webster's barber once asked him.

To which the great man replied: "In silence, sir."

There is no great success without concentration: and no concentration in minds that have not been disciplined to long-continued, self-reliant thought.

Store your mind with thoughts worth while: be independent of the world of chatter—yes, even of the world of books. For in this lies the secret of a virile personality—and the key to contentment.

> The mind is its own place, and of itself
> Can make a hell of heaven; a heaven of hell.

Wise men stock their heaven with good things, and carry it always with them

Bruce Barton, Editor.

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THE GOLDEN HOPE

By ALICE MacGOWAN

Illustrations by Harvey Dunn

SMOKE—that was smoke—chimney smoke! Lefty Scott knew it couldn't be. But it was. No chimney except his own within twenty miles in this snow-buried land, and he'd left the house empty at two o'clock. He began to run up the steep way.

The trail whipped between towering spruces and dodged around snow-padded boulders, giving him only tantalizing glimpses ahead, till he came within a stone's throw of the big, weather-beaten plank house, wearing its icicle-fringed snow cap, the white humps that covered car and ore dump at the mine opening beyond—and saw the windows aglow.

He was not cheered as he should have been by the snug and storied "light in the window." To those who hole up for the winter at a mine in the Sierra Blanca region, kerosene is a precious commodity. That wasted lamp affronting the dying daylight won from him only a yelp of rage and an extra burst of speed. He kicked open the door, made three jumps across the room, blew out the flame, and still had breath enough to roar till the rafters shook:

"Who lit that lamp?"

Dead silence indoors; outside, dull, distant, the bouncing of the forest, as some overburdened pine bough a hundred feet in air loosed its white avalanche under the warm touch of the chinook and let it go thundering down. The change from that world of snow to the dun walls, the blowing out of the lamp, made the room very dim to him. He stood and peered about at its emptiness. The fire from which the smoke ascended was in the kitchen. Something moved in there. He sniffed the air—supper was being got. He grinned half sheepishly, growling:

"Come out, you durned fool! You had your nerve with you to light my lamp."

NO answer for a long while. Then, as he started toward the kitchen door, there suddenly appeared in it a scared girl, her thick, shining dark hair bobbed, a pair of great blank eyes set wide in her little three-cornered face, a propitiating mouth twisted into a tremulous smile, her hands clutching up the cooking apron that was fastened about her waist.

"Hello!" He dropped away, staring before the incredible apparition.

"Hel—hello!" she echoed waveringly, and stared back at him.

A powerful figure, not over-tall, but beautifully muscled, Scott stood lightly on his feet. His face was rather broad, with rich brown that had a lift at their outer corners, giving to the countenance a look at once merry and half fierce. As he pulled off his cap he showed an upstanding shock of bright brown hair.

"Well—say!" He strode across to her, hand out. She met his grasp.

"I'm awful sorry about the lamp." It was a child's voice. "You see, I didn't know—"

"Oh, that's all right," he interrupted warmly. "I just couldn't figure out how anybody—" The words trailed into silence as he stared, overwhelmed again at the miracle, then began on a lower note. "Where in the world—"

She stopped him nervously.

"The door wasn't fastened, so I—I just came in to—you know—to get warm—"

"You're sure welcome." His voice thrilled, and his strong, warm hands continued to grip her little cold ones.

Yet the girl stood, twisting about, looking anywhere but straight at him. She was like an urchin caught in mischief. He noted that there was a long scratch on her cheek near one ear. Her dress on that shoulder had been torn and pinned together. The big black eyes, from a desperate study of his feet, flashed up all at once and stared into his pleadingly.

"I—I thought this was your home. And my suit-case was so heavy—"

SLOWLY Lefty relinquished her hands; his glance followed hers to where a straw suit-case stood against the wall, neighboured by a pair of absurdly small arctics, a woman's Mackinaw coat and knitted cap on a chair, the cap topped by a scarlet pompon.

"That's the red thing I saw on the bridge three hours ago!" he blurted.

"Did you?"

"Sure I did. Were you down there then—hiding behind the abutment?"

"Yes," she nodded, and gulped.

Lefty had a queer feeling that if he questioned her she might vanish; yet he went on:

"It was trying to make out what that was that got me my fall. You saw me—going to Ballyhink down the gulch. Took me all afternoon to dig myself out. Seems to me you might have waited a minute to find out whether I was dead."

"I—did wait. Then I heard you swearing—some; and I knew you were all right. So I—I came on. I was scared."

"Scared?"—with a quick change of countenance, a sudden drop in his tone.

"Yes"—in a mere breath; and after it, lower still: "I don't know what to do!"

Scott instantly put more space between himself and his visitor.

"Well, see here." He spoke when the silence had become oppressive. "It ain't me in particular you're afraid of, is it?"

"No. I—of course not," with a forced little smile. "I'm just afraid of questions. If you could let me stay here to-night—and not try to find out—anything—"

The hands she twisted together were small and white.

"Stay!" he echoed, bewildered. "You can't do anything else."

"And you—"

"Sure—I'll not ask you any questions—or say anything—if you don't want me to. That's a pretty big order, but I guess I can fill it."

He spoke gently, yet she must have thought she had offended, for as she turned toward the kitchen, she called back naively:

"Don't be mad at me. I've got a good supper ready. If you'll just let me stay and—and not ask any questions—and not be mad—"

"You bet I ain't mad!"

Scott followed, and stood in the kitchen door to pull off his mackinaw and stare smilingly at her where she kneeled before the oven and peered at a pan of biscuits.

"I didn't set the table," she said. "I didn't know how many there would be to eat."

"But you washed all my dirty dishes"—glancing about the kitchen. "I'll set it for you now—there's just you and me."

Scott hung up his coat, returned to make sure she hadn't disappeared, propped the kitchen door open, and, looking in every time he passed it, began his preparations.

The girl in the kitchen called for a dish to hold the beans, a platter for her stew.

"I—I cooked both rabbits," she apologized. "I'm afraid it'll be too much, but—you see—it's just like the lamp. I didn't know."

"Plenty more rabbits—out in the snow," he laughed at her. "I'll bet there won't be much of this left"—raising the steaming platter gingerly and starting toward the table with it. "M-m-m, that smells good! 'F you'd been living all winter on your own cooking, or worse—you'd know just how good— That lamp—pshaw, I'm going to light it right now. If we burn up all the kerosene, I guess we can sit in the dark." As she followed with the beans, he was setting the lamp in the middle of the table.

"I'll bring the biscuits and coffee now."

She dodged away from the first full view he got of her in the light.

"Yes, you won't!" He got around the table with terrifying swiftness, and put his hands on the chair-back there. "You'll sit right down in this chair and let me wait on you— What am I going to call you?"

"Lydia," tremulously; "just Lydia Bent. The biscuits are in the oven, Mr.—Man."

"Scott—Leonard Scott," he supplied joyously. It was one of the sore things about his winter-long imprisonment at the mine here with Hitchcock that there wasn't a laugh in the man—never any of the little foolish jokes that mean nothing, but keep life sweet. "They mostly call me Lefty."

"I—noticed." She smiled at the skilful left hand that placed the coffee-pot beside the two cups near her plate.

HE got into his place opposite her. The long table was of boards, the end at which they ate covered with oil-cloth. There were benches for seats. The big, bare room was heated by an air-tight stove that roared now, and showed a red eye. Naked plank bunks, without any bedding, were dimly visible in the shadows at the farther end, and there were two doors besides the front one and that into the kitchen.

"This is a mine, isn't it?" the girl asked, putting stew on his plate.

"Ye-ah. The Golden Hope. Works eight men in the summer." He was serving the beans.

"Is it yours?"

Lefty laughed a little.

"Wish Hitchcock could hear you say that!"

"Hitchcock!" She echoed uneasily.

"My partner—senior partner—the whole show, to hear him tell it."

"Oh—a—a partner. Where is he?"

"In Twisp. Lit out for there as soon as the chinook blew enough to open the trails. He'll be back here in three days—he says."

She was silent.

"Three days—in Twisp," she said finally. "And he'll be drunk when he gets back."

"Say," Scott laid down knife and fork to laugh out, "do you know Hitchcock?"

"No; but that's the way they all do—the men in this country."

"I guess you're about right, at that," Scott agreed soberly. "I know I was mad enough to bite when Hitchcock took first goes. Well—let's talk about some-

thing cheerful. Let's talk about ourselves."

"No!" she cried. "You promised—" Then, breaking off with her funny little disarming grin: "Oh, I don't mind us talking about you, but—but—"

"You didn't get me. I'm not that sort. I promised not to ask you any questions; I'm not going to. I just want to talk about what we like, and what we don't, and what we'd do if we had a million dollars."

"Oh, yes—let's!"

"Well," opened *Lefty*, "I'd sure get out of this in a hurry."

"And leave your gold mine?"

"Ye-ah. Hitchcock's. I'm only a working partner. Hitch took me in at the last minute, because I'm husky and not afraid of work—and he couldn't hire me. You bet I wouldn't have stayed last fall if I'd known what was ahead of me—holed up all winter with that big stiff. Say, this isn't talking about ourselves. What's your favorite color?"

"Blue," promptly. "Joffre blue; and old rose. Old rose messaline is the loveliest thing. Mustard yellow—with touches of black and white. Green—right dark green—oh, I love 'em all!"

He was listening with eager attention. She jumped up, plate in hand.

"What you want?"

"Biscuits. More hot biscuits. You've eaten them all."

"Gimme that plate. Sit down. I'm going to wait on you—Lydie."

"All right, Len."

He carried that into the kitchen with him, and came back aglow. Supper went happily forward. He was like a man on a desert island, with arrearages of loneliness piled high. When she caught him watching her—

"You mustn't mind," he apologized. "The minute you stop talking, I just can't believe you're here."

They lingered out the meal, fed as much by a sense of harmonious companionship as by the food. When finally it was done and the chairs pushed back a little, Lefty leaned across and laid his fingers softly over hers on the table.

"You've got such pretty little hands—Lydie," glancing at her quickly to see how she took it. "They've never been spoiled with housework. You go sit down by the fire now. I'll clean up; all you've got to do is to talk to me while I work."

"Huh—I think I see myself!"

Lydie was up, scraping the plates, clattering the dishes together.

THE cleaning up, with its running about, its little flurries of arguments, went even more gaily than supper. It was not till the finish of it was in sight that Lefty began to sense a creeping change in her manner. He spoke abruptly:

"I'm giving you Hitchcock's room. Come hold the lamp for me, and I'll put your suit-case in right now."

He caught up the poker; she followed, lamp in hand, to a padlocked door at the farther end of the living-room, and stood lighting him while he pried at the staples.

"What in the world are you doing?" she questioned uneasily.

"'S only good room in the house"—tugging away. "Got a real bed, and some furniture."

Clang! The lock went to the floor.

"Oh, you've broken it!" Lydie cried.

Scott turned, looked at her quickly, and set down his poker.

"See here," he said. "I'm going to behave myself. Don't you think I'm not." He picked up the suit-case, and they crossed the threshold. "This is what I wanted to show you—the bar—see? It falls right in across the door, like that."

"Oh—why, that'd keep anything out."

Lydie fingered the rambling uncertainly. Scott laughed as he raised and lowered it on its pins to show her the workings.

"I know as well as I want to that Hitch put that on there to keep me out. My little old mom's over yonder at the other end"—he pointed to the farther side of the living-room—"too far to hear you if you get nervous in the night—with wildcats coming around, or anything like that. But—shucks!—it's me you'd be scared of. I'm the only thing you need to be afraid of this side of Twisp, I reckon."

"And I—I'm surely not afraid of you." She smiled waveringly.

"I guess not," with sudden gravity. "Well, you needn't go to bed right now, just because I've showed you the room. Like to sit a while by the heater and talk? No? Good night, then."

Scott left the lamp with her.

"I won't burn it but a minute," she said appealingly, as she shut the door.

He listened while the bar was dropped in place, then crossed the room slowly and sat down alone. That was the right thing to do; yet, now that he had done it, he was not somehow entirely pleased with himself. He might have got the other lamp from his room; instead he opened the slide of the heater. After that he sat on and on, and thought about the girl in the room there.

Where she had come from, how she had got to the Golden Hope, what lay behind her refusal to tell more than her name, staggered conjecture.

She was running away from something. She was trying to hide from some one. He wondered if he had made a fool of himself. He was suddenly conscious of the strength of his muscles from head to foot, the power of life in him. What was it for—to let a girl tell him she wasn't afraid of him?

He got lithely to his feet and stood balanced a minute, staring down, then gropied his noiseless way over to her door. Once there, he didn't touch the planks, but stood, crouched a little in the dark, his hands unconsciously clenched, waiting, listening. The fire in the stove fell in. Its mere whisper of sound brought his heart into his throat. To eyes long used to the dark the sudden added glow showed him the room, made him all at once conscious of himself and his actions.

"Shucks!" he muttered. "I better get along to bed too."

SCOTT lay long sleepless, and waked late next morning to the startled knowledge that somebody was moving around from kitchen to living-room, to a sound of clinking dishes and the smell of coffee. Then over him, soft and vivid, came memory: it was the girl—getting breakfast. He was instantly out of bed, hurried on some clothing, and watched an opportunity to leap from his window into the snow and slip around to the wash-basin before she could see him.

Somehow, he was more thrillingly alive to the situation than he had been the night before. Unseen he stood long, peeping in at her. Yes, there she was, more amazing, more mysterious than ever in the commonplace day; her thick crop of dark hair, that took a sheen in the slanting light, tied down by a twisted handkerchief, the cooking apron on over a serge skirt and shirtwaist, looking as much at ease as any girl in any kitchen.

The problem of hot water for shaving troubled him; but he found his chance to steal it while she was setting the table, and got back to his own room by the same route he had left it. In an amazingly short space of time he had opened his door, shaved, shining-eyed, in the best wear he had, and cried:

"Morning—Lydie. Why didn't you wake me?"

"I was going to call you when breakfast was ready," Lydie smiled. "It's done now. You take in the coffee and—I'll bring the the biscuits."

"I know a better play than that. Let's stay right here in the kitchen and eat out of the stove. Don't you love to?"

It was when they were seated before the opened oven that she said suddenly:

"I'm going to clean house to-day. The place needs a little—"

"Help!" laughed Scott. "It needs a whole lot. But you bet you're not going to touch it. Where'd I be while you were doing the rough work?"

"Touch it if I want to," she doffed him. "I just love to clean house. You can bring in wood—we'll need lots of hot water—and get me some old clothes—rags. Have you got plenty?"

"Yep," Lefty grinned. "Haven't got much else." He pushed up a sweater sleeve to show the frayed gap in the elbow of his clean cotton shirt. "That's the best one I could find this morning."

"Oh, I can mend it. I'll mend them all for you."

"Sure. That's the way we'll fix it. I'll get the whole bundle,—what's been washed, anyhow,—and you sit over there by the window and sew, while I clean house."

It was a crafty proposition. It resulted in establishing her—the breakfast dishes done—in the one rocking-chair near the window, a pile of his mending beside her, his vigorous, rhythmic step going to and fro in the kitchen, while his vivid, laughing face looked constantly in, with some variation of the appeal:

"Come and show me, Lydie. I'm one of them strong and willing kind that don't know much. You'll have to show me."

"I'll never get these shirts mended if you call me out here every minute this way," Lydie came at last protesting. "You know well enough how to scrub a kitchen floor—anybody does. Oh—not that way—just a little water at first, and your soap and sand. I showed you that. I've explained it three times."

LEFTY observed continually that her speech and manner showed a better social grade than his.

"I expect you've got a fine education," he said to her at dinner.

"No—not very. I never studied like I ought, and I wasn't through high school when—"

She broke off in such confusion that he supplied:

"Well, there's time enough yet for you. You can't be more than—?"

He waited for her, and she finished the sentence:

"Seventeen."

"And I'm twenty-six. Well, Lydie, I'm sure short on education. I wish you'd call me down when you hear me making breaks. A friend ought to. We are friends—ain't we, Lydie?"

She nodded. Friends—the past a blank behind their knowing of each other, the future (beyond the three days which the girl set as the end of it) also a blank; what there was might be allowed to stand for a life-time and bespeak the privileges of life-long friendship.

"Oh, yes, we're friends," she agreed.

It was a heavenly day after the long, bitter winter, with a gurgle of subterranean waters from the melting snows, a drip at the eaves, a lisp and whisper of spring everywhere. The doors stood open; the scrubbed floor dried and smelled sweet; while Lydie sat and cut out pictures from illustrated papers for the wall. She let Scott help her tack them up. By the time the evening meal was under way, first going, the lamp lighted, a pleasant odor of cooking in the air, the sense of home had intensified.

"Say, you watch the stove," she said, and ran into her room—Hitchcock's room—to return in an incredibly short time wearing a pink blouse instead of her plain shirt-waist, a broad pink ribbon round the dark cropped head, its great rosy bow riding over one ear.

"You cute kid!" Scott welcomed her. "You went and dressed up for me!"

AT table he openly courted her. He offered himself to her with his eyes—those ardent, yellow-rayed eyes under their slightly tilted brows. He signed himself her lover with every movement of his head, his hands, the very slant of his big body as he leaned forward to pass a dish or serve her. When it came to speech she was the more adroit, and shut him up without the slightest trouble.

He kept his word: he asked no questions. Yet, though she had dressed up, though she tossed her pink bow daringly, when his hand touched hers as it lay on the table she looked up at him almost as if she were going to cry, and after that was never quite within his reach.

The kerosene was so nearly out that afterward they sat in the half light by the open stove door and talked. Scott looked at her, curled down to the warmth, and could scarcely believe in his own blessedness.

"Gee!" he murmured, shaking his head. "This is different from sitting here with Hitchcock—neither of us saying a word, and the other one would have knocked his head off if he had said it!"

"Is that the way you are—when you get used to folks?" She peered at him.

"Sure—you know I'd be," he laughed back. "Hitch and I were friendly as pups at first. Played casino evenings; but I had so much luck that he accused me of cheating. We pretty near went to the mat over it. I always did have luck—at cards."

"Are you a gambler—do you mean?"

She put it seriously, quite as if she were inquiring whether he were a butcher or a baker. It made him laugh again.

"What do you think?" he asked.

"I think—you're not," she decided after a survey. "You don't look like one."

"Listen to the expert!" he chuckled. "What does little Lydie know about how a gambler looks?"

She made no answer—only sat staring down at the interlaced hands in her lap, setting her lips hard. The firelight shone on tears under her dark lashes.

"Don't cry!" he broke out, dismayed. "What did I say? I didn't mean that for a question. What did I say, anyhow?"

"Nothing." She winked the tears out of her eyes, trying to smile. "You didn't say anything wrong. It's me. I'm just so—so— I wish we had a good book. I'd light the lamp and read to you."

"Oh, we don't need that—yet." Lefty's voice made an indescribable, caressing circumflex. "I'd love to hear you read,—and it's what I need, of course,—but for a while I'd rather just—just talk. Looks like I never in the world would get tired of that!"

"Haven't you got any books at all?" She was nervous beneath the ardor of his eyes.

"Bible lying around here somewhere. Not that I know much about the Bible. It was given to me—" He pulled up and flushed darkly. "I expect you know it by heart," he added the hasty suggestion.

"I guess"—she shook her head slowly, gazing straight in at the heart of the coals—"I guess pretty near the only verse I know by heart is the one we used to try our fortunes with: 'And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.'"

HE leaned toward her for a breathless moment. Outside, a blank white zero of a world; within, a red heart of home, thrilling to the passionate words of that deathless Hebrew love tale.

"Say it over again," he whispered. "'Entreat me not to leave thee—' And that was right there in my old Bible all the time! The whole thing—better'n I could say it if I tried a hundred years. Wherever you go I—"

She crouched away a little with scared eyes, then scrambled up, trembling. He was on his feet in an instant.

"Oh—don't." She backed away from him toward the door of her room. "You mustn't! You don't know—"

He kept abreast of her, a quick-breathing shadow that made no movement to touch her. But finally, when she had halted and her hand went out toward the knob of her door, his own closed over it, while he caught her round the waist. Instead of the resistance he had expected, she dropped like a shot thing, and lay limp in his grasp. The face she turned up toward his own showed chalk-white, its eyes black pools of terror, the mouth drooping at the corners and working pitifully. A shock went through him. He put her away almost roughly.

"Don't look at me like that," he whispered. "What's the matter? Are you—my God! are you—married? Is it that? Do you belong to somebody else?"

He drew off slowly.

"You promised not to ask any—you promised not—" she cried.

"She dropped like a shot thing, and lay limp in his grasp. Her face showed chalk-white, its eyes black pools of terror, the mouth working pitifully."

"Oh, Lydie, don't. I didn't mean that, either. I—I won't ask any questions."

"N-never mind—" she quavered.

He saw that she was shaking from head to foot, so that she could scarcely get out the words.

"I—you—see here!"

His dismay was scarcely less than hers. His left hand went to his hip, and brought out the small automatic he always carried.

"Can you use a gun? Well, then—you look this one. Put it on you now, and don't you take it off while you're outside the door of your own room. I don't want to have you look at me like that again. Good night."

It was Lydie who slept late next morning. Scott had been up and about with the dawn, splitting a great quantity of wood. He took food from the cupboard, wrapped it in newspaper, thrust it in the pocket of his coat, then stood a while in the middle of the floor debating, and finally went and hammered on Lydie's door. Her frightened answer came instantly:

"What is it? Wait a minute."

"Needn't get up yet," he made haste to stop her. "I just wanted to tell you that I'm going—something I've got to 'tend to. You're not scared to stay here without me, are you?"

"No, no—wait a minute."

HE could hear her tumble out of bed. Almost instantly the door opened, to show her with a blanket huddled around her shoulders, pushing the hair from her eyes, gazing at him bewildered.

"What's the matter?" She put out a small hand toward his sleeve, and then seemed afraid to touch him. "Are you mad at me? I didn't mean to make you mad last night. I—"

He pulled away brusquely.

"It's all right if you ain't scared to be here alone. You needn't be. You're a fat lot safer without me than with me."

"But," she faltered, "you mustn't go. I'd better leave than to have you go."

Scott faced her and spoke sharply:

"Where's your gun? You had no business to open the door to a man without your gun on. You pack it all day—and keep it on after I come back to-night—see?"

Sudden color came flooding up over the girl's pinched little face.

"Oh," she cried, like a child let off from punishment, "you are coming back—to-night! I'll have such a good supper for you." She seemed suddenly aware of her appearance. "I—I didn't mean to—to not look nice—or—be careful." She gathered the gray folds of the blanket closer about her. "But it was only you—"

"Not afraid of me, eh? Well, then, I'll have to be afraid for you."

SCOTT came back when sunset was painting the snow-peaks with unbelievable glories. His day alone with himself in the open had left him silent, grave looking. Lydie had her supper ready to go on the table when he got in.

All through the meal his constraint held, a sort of formality that even the associations of clearing up could not get past. Afterward she would have gone silently to her room, but he said suddenly:

"Would you sit a while with me here? It'll have to be in the dark. The kerosene's about gone. Hitchcock might not come to-morrow."

"Oh, yes, he'll come." Lydie was drearily certain; then, with an eager change of voice: "Not that I mind sitting in the dark—I like it."

Scott took the chair opposite hers. There was no leaning toward her to-night and asking her to repeat Bible verses. He sat straight and began at once on what he had to say. It unfolded itself, very simply and barely, as the account of a man he used to know—a boy he used to know.

"I never could see where he was so awful much worse than other folks," Lefty put it. "I—well, I thought I'd tell you about him and see what you say. He had a high temper, and he was strong built. Sometimes he didn't know how hard he was hitting. But—listen; I want to know what you say."

After that there was scarcely a break or halt as he gave her, with queer naïveté and vividness, the story of a boy in the hill country of Kentucky who went wrong, killed a man, and served a term in the penitentiary for it—a short term on account of his youth, and because there had been provocation.

"He was sixteen when he done that," came the summing up. "He was sentenced for fifteen years, and got time off—quite a lot of time off—for good behavior. At twenty-four he was free again. The only one of his folks that he cared anything about—his mother—was dead when he came out of the pen. I guess it was his being sent there that killed her. So he went a considerable ways off and tried for a new start."

Lydie moved in the dark, and, when he was still so long, spoke.

"A new start," she echoed faintly.

"Ye-ah; he made a new start. But there's another thing. He—he—it seems to him that folks act scared of him. He never could be sure whether it was because of their knowing what he'd done—or just something—something there was about him, you know—that scared 'em. What would you think? Would you be afraid of a man you knew that about?"

"What makes you ask me that?" Her voice sounded muffled, choked.

"Light the lamp—and I'll tell you."

She made no move. Scott heaved himself up with a sigh, got the matches, lighted the lamp, yet seemed reluctant to look at her. Finally he raised his eyes, and met hers across the table.

"It's no use," he breathed. "You're scared of me. Yes,—you can say what you please,—you're scared of me."

He went back to his chair, settled heavily into it, and sat with clasped hands between his knees, staring at the stove.

"Good night," he said without looking around.

She lingered at the table; he thought from her breathing that she had begun to cry.

"I wish—"

She spoke brokenly, checked herself, came toward him a step, then whirled and ran to her door. She stopped there with the knob in her hand, and faced around to say more composedly:

"You don't understand. But—but you will before I go."

Next morning they seemed both to have got up in a plain common-sense, daylight mood. Scott kept a grip on himself, moving with a kind of haste, talking more than usual, like a man afraid to let himself think. He was going up the cañon to get a big spruce down for firewood. It would keep him busy the greater part of the day.

For hours the ring of his ax sounded at intervals. Before twelve a long, rending crash proclaimed the tree's fall. When he went in for the noon meal, he thought she certainly had been crying. He didn't mention it; all through the meal there was hardly a word said between them.

Yet, when he would have put on a sweater and cap and gone back to his chopping, he found himself unable to leave her. He lingered helplessly, trumping up and down, glancing at her from the corners of his eyes, then went and sat by the stove in the front room, while she, the door open, worked about in the kitchen.

THE afternoon wore away. The little nickeled clock on the shelf ticked with a sound of hurry. Lefty got to watching it, and then going uneasily to the door. A silence he found it hard to break had fallen between him and the girl. For a long hour she was shut in her room, where he heard her moving about.

When she came out she carried her suit-case to the kitchen with her. She had started supper—he wondered if it was for three.

He got up, went into the kitchen, and just stood there, the suit-case in plain view. One look from those big, terrified eyes in the small, pale face, and he took himself awkwardly out of the room.

As the sun went down, the drip from the eaves ceased, the boom of the forest was stilled. Scott, sitting by the stove, found the house strangely quiet. Then he suddenly became aware that he had been hearing for some minutes the sound of hoofs away down the trail. He went to the door. Something moved across an opening in the evergreens on one of the turns down there—Hitchcock on old Nell. He turned his head toward the kitchen. Neither sound nor movement there.

Continued on page 31

THE MELTING POT

In Which the New Books and Magazines are Boiled Down to Give You Fifteen Minutes of Health, Efficiency, Travel, Biography, and Adventure

WHY CLOTHES COST MORE

DON'T be embittered by the high cost of clothing. It's the fault of neither the manufacturer nor the dry-goods man, says a writer in the *Saturday Night Review*.

For many reasons your suit will cost at least five dollars more this year. England has placed an embargo on the wool from Australia and New Zealand, whence our wool once came. Silk linings from Japan and China have gone up thirty and forty per cent. on account of the high shipping rates and the cost of dyes.

A plush coat, once so cheap and serviceable and rich-looking withal, costs at least six dollars more this year. England has discovered that tussah, the Chinese silk from which plush is made, makes the best bags for gunpowder and cartridges, so she allows only a few small shipments to the United States.

Every scrap of steel, wire, and bone is in demand at the munitions factories, and its price has gone up a thousandfold. Consequently the humblest corset costs a dollar more. And because millions of pairs of shoes have been worn out in long marches and have rotted in trench mud, the shortage in leather is alarming.

"THEY TOOK THEIR CHANCES—SO DO I"

An English ship, laden with petrol, struck a mine and burst into towering flames. The men had to jump overboard. But Mr. Joe Connelly, third engineer, kept the engines going until one life-boat could be lowered to save them. He was terribly burned, but he wears an Albert Medal now, the gift of King George.

"LAST night in the Baltic Tavern tap
I met' (Mike said) "a 'longshore chap
As said, 'Don't sailorin' look queer
With all them mines an' such-like gear?
If I was you I'd says, says 'e)
'I'd take a shore job, same as me,
An' leave this trouble that's around
For them that's fond o' gettin' drowned.'

"'No, no' (I says), 'I ain't a-givin'
It up for any square-'ead livin'.
The way I puts it in my 'ead
Is—no man's done until 'e's dead;
An' if it comes to dyin', sure,
A man dies once, an' then no more.'

"I says: 'When ships 'as left off goin',
An' grass on London Docks is growin'
(The same's it is, so I've 'eard say,
On all them 'Amburg wharves this day),
When Lloyd's is broke an' on their uppers,
An' all the owners in the scuppers,
Why, then' (I says), 'I might be lookin'
For a job o' cartin' coals, or cookin',
Or washin' pots, or sellin' tapes,
Or leadin' bears, or learnin' apes;
But since, as I 'ear tell, so far
There's ships still passin' Mersey Bar,
An' one or two comes in each day
To London Docks, so I've 'eard say,
An' ships can't sail without no crew,
So long as they sail, I sail too.

"'If you, young man, 'ad followed the sea
Your 'ole life long, the same as me,
'Ad knowed it, wakin' an' asleep,
An' seen God's wonders in the deep,
I guess you'd not be rattled much
By mines or submarines or such,
Or care a bloomin' finger-snap
For no fool Kaiser or such chap.

"'Besides' (I says), 'when all is said,
Just think o' them poor chaps that's dead;
Poor pals o' mine an' 'ad to die:
They took their chances—so do I!'"

C. FOX SMITH, in the *Sphere*.

THE MOST FOUGHT FOR CITY IN THE WORLD

THE British army is surrounding Jerusalem, and by the time this magazine goes to press it may have become once more a Christian domain for the first time since the Crusades.

Once before the British besieged Jerusalem. That was seven hundred years ago, when Richard the Lion-Hearted circled about the Holy City for two years, and finally abandoned it to the victorious Saladin and his Moslems.

All its life the little ancient town has been the victim of sieges. They began hundreds of years before Christ, even before David took it from the Jebusites and made it the City of David. It was at the height of its glory in the reign of Solomon, who, with his Oriental love of splendor, embellished it with silver and costly woods. Its beauty and strength were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's year-and-a-half siege. No sooner had it been restored by Nehemiah than the Persians seized it, then the Egyptians, then the Greeks, then the Romans.

Photograph by International Film Service.

Herod the Great, who ruled it for the Romans, was the famous builder. He restored the temple that Solomon had been seven years in building. He erected a great palace with towers and pillared porticos and bronze statues. He put up a theater, amphitheater, and hippodrome. Outwardly the city was brilliantly prosperous; inwardly it was torn with dissensions between the Romans and Jews. Such was Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion of Christ.

After Christ's death the sieges went on. Vespasian besieged it for 134 days. Before it collapsed, the suffering was terrible. Six hundred thousand bodies were thrown outside the gates. Jews were carried off and sold as slaves in Roman markets. Temples were burned, walls destroyed, even foundations were dug up.

The Roman Emperor Constantine built the first Christian churches, which in turn gave way to mosques during the Moslem invasion. Once more during the Crusades the Christians won back Jerusalem. It became for them a Holy City, as it had been for the Jews. From most of the known world came pilgrims to pray in the churches. Then Saladin with his Moslem troops won the city after a two years' siege, and kept Richard and the Crusaders out of it. The Ottoman Turks captured it in 1517. It is still theirs.

The city lies peacefully on two hills. It has nearly 50,000 inhabitants—29,000 Jews, 8500 Moslems, the rest Christians. Each faith is represented in the town council, presided over by the mayor, who represents the Sultan. There is so much friction among the different faiths, and among branches of the same faith, that soldiers are usually quartered there to keep peace.

THE CITY GIRL ON THE FARM

"IN my ignorance I thought it would be a soft job milking and feeding cattle," said a pretty little milliner girl who left London to serve her country by going on the farm. Her experiences are told in *Successful Farming*. "I wasn't advised to put the milking pail in my right hand and my stool in the left when approaching Mrs. Cow. I wasn't told to go to the right side of the cow. I wasn't advised to say, 'Whoa there, pretty cow,' and thereby gain the cow's confidence. I wasn't put to milking the easiest cows, with long teats and a good flow of milk."

She taught tricks to the ducks that were placed under her care. One day a stranger came, and her master called her, saying, "Come here, girl: show this man the antics of them drakes." After the performance, which both men enjoyed uproariously, the stranger seized her darlings by the necks, whirled them around until their necks were broken, and threw them into a bag.

"I flew at him, but master pushed me back. I heard him tell the man that town girls were too soft-souled for farm work."

But, in spite of the hard work, and the gruffness of the farmer, the little milliner "declared that she would stay by the farm work until the war was over, and her help was no longer needed."

When the girls from the English towns went to the farm work, they didn't know that a cow likes to be approached on the right side and to be called by its first name, and that a cow kicks in almost any direction.

FEEDING A CHILD OF TWO

THE bulletin of the Children's Bureau in the United States Department of Labor gives the following menu for a two-year-old:

Seven A. M., milk, zwieback, toast, or dried bread; 9 A. M., orange juice; 10 A. M., cereal, cup of milk; 2 P. M., broth, meat, vegetable, stale bread, baked apple; 6 P. M., cereal, milk, toast or bread; 10 A. M., milk (may be omitted).

"At this time the baby should be taking about one quart of milk in twenty-four hours," says the bulletin. Part of this may be poured over the cereal. Oatmeal should be cooked three hours, with a little salt in the water. It should be served without sugar or with a very little only.

Bread should be thoroughly baked and quite dry. Hot breads are not suitable for young children.

The child may have a small portion of baked apple or prunes, cooked very tender, in addition to his orange juice. He may have about a tablespoonful of scraped meat or a soft boiled or coddled egg once a day. A small portion of some properly cooked green vegetable, like spinach or tender string-beans, may be given.

TWELVE RULES FOR THE AMERICAN BOY

Every boy was born to be a champion in something. If you can't be the fightingest boy in town, why don't you try to be the best-natured boy, or the funniest boy, or cheerfulest boy?

Vitagraph.

THERE are more $5000 jobs for the American boy to-day than there were $2000 jobs for his father. But, as he can make more money than his father, so he will have to make more of an effort. The training his father had won't do for him. Edward Earle Purinton in the *Independent* gives twelve rules for a boy's leadership in life:

Be a leader now. Find the study or the sport in which you were born to excel. Take the lead, and hold it.

Select a hero and study him. Compare his hardships with your own. Remember that a handicap in youth is the best help a man ever had.

Learn what you are good for. Don't begin a life-work by chance.

Master a trade before you are twenty.

Plan to be at college two years or more. Of the men in "Who's Who," sixty-nine per cent. had college training.

Know just how strong and healthy you are. Do you sit straight? Do you drink enough pure water? Do you sleep in a ventilated room?

Take a sensible view of athletics. The reason for admiring a boxer is that he destroyed a collection of bad habits in getting fit to be a champion.

Join a well equipped boys' club. If there isn't one near you, with a shower-bath and a library, help get one.

Eat for strength of nerve, brain, and muscle. The majority of men are weak or dull because of wrong eating habits in early youth.

Earn your own spending money. A manly, healthy boy won't ask for money after he is ten years old.

Start now to become a good citizen. Can you help prevent fires, plant trees, clean sidewalks, destroy insects, fight a forest fire?

Skill, service, and responsibility are the first three things to make a boy successful.

WHERE TO PITCH YOUR CAMP

"Forget six counties overhung with smoke,
Forget the snorting steam and piston stroke,
Forget the spreading of the hideous town."

WATER and wood and drainage—this is the important Rule of Three to making a camp.

Running water does not purify itself, says Horace Kephart in *Camping and Woodcraft* (Outing Publishing Company). The clear mountain stream may carry germs of typhoid from some mountain cabin on its bank; the well in rocky or clayey earth may have germs buried far underneath; and the well on an abandoned farm may have an antique cat in its depths. But a well in sandy soil is more or less filtered by nature; a spring in a living rock, even if it is nothing but a trickle, is sure to be pure.

Wood comes next to water in importance. Make your camp, says the author, where there is plenty of sound dead wood; or if you are traveling with a team, where fuel is scarce, get the habit of tossing into the wagon any good chunks you see along the road.

Drainage is the third essential to a comfortable camp. Keep away from low ground, warns the author. Get an open spot, level enough for a tent, but with enough of a slope to shed the rain.

Although these three points are the main ones to consider for a "one-night" stand, there are others almost as important for a fixed camp. Pitch your tent where you can get grass for horses and bedding for men; straight poles for the tent, or trees convenient for attaching the ridge-rope; security against fires; exposure to direct sunlight during part of the day; in summer, exposure to breezes and in winter protection from them; and, lastly, privacy.

DOING BUSINESS WITH IRRITABLE CUSTOMERS

THE irritable man knows that he is irritable, and, on account of nervousness or ill health, he can't help it. But if you don't scold back at him, if you are persistently friendly and polite, his gratitude is pathetic. He feels that you have ignored and risen above a failing that he can't overcome.

In every firm there should be a person constitutionally good-natured to write to irritable customers, says Sherwin Cody in *How to Deal with Human Nature in Business* (Funk & Wagnalls Company).

Here are two ways of answering a nagging letter. A customer writes:

> I return you your bill for $165 for a page of advertisement in your magazine, and also a copy of it in which I have marked half a dozen errors which I corrected in the proof, but to which you paid no attention. You make me say, like an idiot, "common" when I wrote "uncommon." I do not choose to pay $165 to be made a fool of, and I decline to pay. Please write it off your books.

The usual reply to a letter like this runs:

> We have read your letter with a good deal of surprise. Don't you think that is rather a large price to charge us for a couple of minor errors? If we are obliged to take this matter into court, don't you imagine that the impression that you are a fool would be intensified rather than lessened? etc.

After this the irate gentleman would rather die than pay up.

A better reply would say:

> We know how annoying business errors are, even if they do not destroy the business value of the advertisement. Suppose we give you an extra quarter page in our next issue? While we feel sure that you will see just as many answers to this advertisement as if it had been all right, still we heartily appreciate the annoyance the matter has caused you. We inclose credit for an extra quarter page next month, and trust you will find it advantageous to continue your full page.
>
> With deep regret,
> Yours very truly,

THE THREE GREAT FEARS OF MANKIND

THE three great types of nervous fear are fear of other people's opinions; fear of insanity, sickness, and death; and fear of poverty, says Dr. I. H. Hirschfeld in *The Heart and Blood-Vessels* (Funk & Wagnalls Company).

"Exaggerated consideration for other people's opinions makes nervous people into living lies," says the writer.

"Every one must find out for himself what he is and what he can do, and steer directly to the place where he belongs. By always paying attention to others he may succeed in crippling, but never in improving himself.

"Nervous people who are constitutionally displeased with their own persons should, when judging themselves, imagine themselves in the place of God, deciding about entrance to heaven, where great leaders in society and business may be rated lower than a faithful servant; and where a simple, honest effort to do right will count for much with the wisest and kindest Judge."

No one need fear sickness, insanity, or death, if he stops to reason about it. Acute disease ends either in recovery, invalidism, or death. A chronic invalid can enjoy life when he is free from pain. Many great works are produced by sick men, and there is no reason why morphine should not be given to relieve intense suffering. The person who fears to become insane seldom does so.

"It is natural that after living many years on this earth we are as loath to leave it as to go from an old homestead," says the doctor. "However, most of our best men welcome death as the great liberator. Death is either a long, quiet sleep or the passing to a better world. God can not punish wickedness worse than the guilty generally punish themselves here; and He forgives as He best knows our limitations.

"The loss of a beloved one is immensely painful. Without him everything may seem to have lost its meaning. But the nervous system can not remain in such a state of painful high tension for any length of time. After fifteen months the longest grief has lost its power to interfere with the normal action of a brain, provided acute grief is not wilfully stimulated by intentional thinking of the past."

You don't have to worry about poverty. You can be happy though poor, just as others are unhappy though rich. "Moreover, every one can save enough during the time he enjoys work to keep him care-free till the end of life," says the doctor.

HOW TO GET MARRIED, THOUGH POOR

EGGS at sixty cents a dozen; butter fifty cents a pound; potatoes and cabbages in the Natural History Museum! How can young people without a bank account marry, in these days?

"I think I have found a solution of this problem," writes Lilian Bayliss Green in *The Effective Small Home* (Robert M. McBride & Company), "but it applies only to those who care more for each other than they care for unenlightened public opinion. A girl must be willing to do a certain amount of housework daily." Here is the valuable housekeeping experience of the author in the first few years after her marriage:

"We took an apartment of two rooms and bath. Two single beds, three comfortable chairs, a table, and a double student lamp were the essential furniture.

Even if there are no 6 per cent bonds in your deposit vault, you can get married, provided the girl is willing to concentrate on housework for only two hours a day.

"A few shelves and a two-burner gas stove with an adjustable oven made up our kitchen equipment.

"I started without an ice-chest, but ended by getting one about a yard long with a flat top. This served as a table under the plate-rack. I painted the ice-chest a blue-green, and thus transformed a commercial-looking object of grained brown paint into an ornamental piece of furniture that fitted into the general scheme of the room.

"Above the sink white canisters contained sugar, flour for sauces, tea, coffee, and salt. Seasonings stood on a tiny shelf near the stove. Covered canisters on the shelves contained cereals and flour. So it was possible for me to prepare a meal without moving from one spot.

"My own part of the work took about two hours each day. While we were eating breakfast the beds were airing. After the dishes were washed I made the beds and arranged the room so that it became a living-room once more, with no suggestion of a sleeping-room. I then filled the lamp, did the dusting, made out menus for the day, did any ordering that was necessary—and my housework was done, except for our two simple meals, which took but very little time. The rest of the day I had a perfectly free mind for occupations that had no connection whatever with housework."

THE EDITOR'S EXPERIENCE WITH BILLY SUNDAY

EVERYBODY has his own opinion about the war, a protective tariff, and Billy Sunday. Ten years ago, when Billy was unknown in the East, the editor of this magazine, then just out of college, set out to expose him. He followed Billy through three Illinois towns where Billy had preached three years, two years, and one year earlier. There were to be three articles, and the expectation was that they would show that Billy, having visited these towns and taken a large amount of money from each one, had left them with no permanent influence for good behind.

The first town visited was Freeport—a conservative little city with a large German population and one or two breweries. To the editor's surprise, though three years had passed since Billy's visit, every single pastor in Freeport stated that his church still showed the effects of Billy's work in its membership, finances, and general life.

At least a dozen prominent business men were pointed out who had never been church members before Billy's coming, but who had joined under his influence and stood by firmly ever since.

Decatur voted "dry" immediately after Billy's leaving, and one of the saloon-keepers hung out a sign:

CLOSED BY ORDER OF
BILLY SUNDAY

Billy got more than $11,000 as Decatur's "offering." The Mayor of the city, though not himself a church member, said:

"If the proposition to bring Billy to Decatur were to come up again, and we knew as much about him as we now do, I would go out among the business men outside the churches and raise $11,000 to bring him for the good he did the town. Men paid up their old debts after Billy left, and the town was morally cleaner and a better place to live and do business in."

SHE BELIEVES IN FRESH AIR

"YOU have made the longest aëroplane flight a woman ever made!"

"I've made the longest flight an American ever made," answered Ruth Law, when the reporters flocked around her on Governor's Island.

A few days before, Victor Carlstrom in a new 200-horse-power biplane had accomplished his much-heralded flight from Chicago to New York. He had stopped only a few times on the way. When he arrived, Major-General Wood received him and conferred with him on aviation.

They had hardly talked it all out when Ruth Law appeared 5000 feet above New York. In an antiquated machine she had flown 500 miles without stopping. Her machine, next to Carlstrom's, looked like a cotillion favor. It was less than half as wide and half as high. It carried 58 gallons of gasoline instead of 200.

Ruth Law returned from the French front the other day.

"I want to drive one of those big biplanes that carry an extra man with a machine-gun and bombs. If we have a Congress-woman, why can't we have a fighting aviator girl?" she says.

A Bread-and-Boat War

By BURTON J. HENDRICK

PERHAPS Mr. Wilson's most important acts, in his preparations for war against Germany, are the two appointments he has made for the two departments that will supply the most needed of all war munitions—bread and boats. He has made Mr. Herbert C. Hoover food controller and grand victualer to the nation, and General George Goethals the great American boat-builder in chief. The feeder of peoples and the builder of boats have not hitherto figured as the greatest factors in warfare; at this present moment, however, that is precisely the position they occupy.

At some time in the future we may send millions of fighting-men to Europe; possibly our great dreadnought fleet will be waged alongside of England's in a sea battle the magnitude of which the most extravagant imagination can hardly comprehend. At the present time, however, and for a year to come, the one appalling aspect on the landscape is the wide-opening gullet of the allied nations waiting to be fed.

Biggest Feeding Contract in History

IF we can satisfy that huge appetite for a year, the battle for civilization will be won. This feeding contract, the greatest in history, is the responsibility of Mr. Hoover and Mr. Goethals—Hoover to garner in the food from a thousand places, and Goethals to ship it to the millions of hungry mouths.

"The road to victory, the guaranty of victory," said Lloyd-George, in his recent speech welcoming American participation in the war, "the absolute assurance of victory, has to be found in one word, 'ships,' and a second word, 'ships,' and a third word, 'ships.'"

This war, from the American standpoint, is to be a bread-and-boat war—at least, for the first year.

Americans should clearly understand this fact, and precisely why it is so. Whenever one discusses the European war, he always reaches one fundamental fact, from whatever point of view he begins. This fact is the great English dreadnought fleet.

"Nelson's storm-tossed ships," wrote Captain Mahan, describing a similar situation that prevailed about a hundred years ago, "stood between Napoleon and the domination of mankind." The great Corsican could win wonderful military victories—Austerlitz, Wagram, Jena, far greater than anything the present German staff has accomplished; but England's domination over the seas made them nothing more permanently significant than grandiose sporting events. So long as those ships held the French Empire in a struggle-hold, shattered all French commerce ports, and gradually reduced the French population to starvation and other privations, this titanic struggle could have only a single end.

Sea Power Will Decide the War

MORE than any other man, the great American historian, Mahan, has developed the idea that sea power always decides the fate of great international conflicts. So closely is his name associated with this conception that, in Europe, the idea is usually known as "Mahanism."

At the beginning of the war the Kaiser declared that he would demonstrate that Mahanism, or sea power as the determining factor in war, was a fallacy. The fate of mankind, he said, would be decided, not on the sea, but on the battlefields of France. But even Germany now acknowledges that Captain Mahan was eternally right: that Germany can win the war in only one way, and that is by making her sea power superior to that of the Allies. The Kaiser has resorted to the old device that he had dismissed as not all-sufficient—that of blockade. If he can do to England what England has already done to him—isolate the island from all association with the rest of the world—he can undoubtedly win the present conflict. Such a calamity would injure England much more than it has injured Germany; for in a few months her food supply would disappear and surrender become inevitable.

What Will Happen if the Germans Win

AND what would England's surrender mean to the future of the world? The prospect is one of the most appalling imaginable. Germany would not rest content with an ordinary surrender. The Kaiser would "bleed England white," precisely as Bismarck promised to do to France. Above everything else, he would demand that military engine which is now the great support of the Allies—the British fleet. On all England's thousands of vessels—including the fifty or sixty dreadnoughts that now, for men hardly firing a shot, dominate the world situation—the English flag would go down and the German flag go up. This enormous armada would then be joined to the German fleet now anchored in the Kiel Canal and the Baltic; that is, the world's two greatest navies would become a single force. Probably Germany would also annex the greater part of the English mercantile fleet—also the largest in the world.

What would such a transaction mean to the world? It would instantaneously demoralize the English and French forces in France; for the prowess of the English navy is the chief agency in supplying these armies with food and munitions. Russia would disappear overnight as a military factor. All supplies of war to Archangel would be cut off. Germany could easily send war-ships to the East, isolate Japan, and at the same time keep all supplies from reaching Russia from Vladivostok. The Salonika expedition would be starved to surrender in a few weeks, and the whole of Asia Minor and India would become provinces of the German Empire.

There would be only one power in the world that could conceivably offer any resistance to the Germans; that is the United States; and any resistance from us would be rather short-lived. The German navy, especially if reinforced by the English ships, would have little difficulty in capturing and destroying the American fleet.

Our shores would thus be laid open to invasion. If Germany succeeds in subduing England by blockade, she will accomplish this stupendous task before the first of September. By that time we could have organized no military force competent to handle Germany's seasoned veterans. Then, for us, would come submission; a huge indemnity would be exacted; and the Monroe Doctrine would be no more. Germany would thus stride over the world; the doctrine of might against right would have accomplished its supreme justification; democracy would be at an end; and the world would be reorganized on the Prussian model.

What are the chances that Germany, in case we keep hands off, may destroy British and neutral shipping to an extent that England may be subdued? Let us cherish no illusions on this point. The greatest men in England are cherishing no such illusions; in fact, they are cautioning the English people not to live in a fools' paradise. You can not fight submarines with your mouth; and merely pooh-poohing the possibility that the German campaign may be a success does not remove the danger.

Submarines Are Sinking 500,000 Tons a Month

GERMANY'S indifference to our recent declaration of war is explained by the fact that she genuinely believes that her ruthless submarine campaign will be a success. When the Germans began, they figured that the destruction of 1,000,000 tons a month would soon bring England to her knees. They have not sunk this 1,000,000 tons, but they have sunk half that amount—500,000 tons a month. In the approaching summer months the submarines should increase this average, not only because the weather will be more favorable, but because these destructive vessels are being launched in constantly increasing numbers. That Germany, before fall, may reach the 1,000,000 monthly tonnage is not impossible. Just how much shipping England and the neutrals have is not known, since a large proportion of the tonnage is being used, not to transport food-stuffs, but in purely military service to France, to Salonica, to the Persian Gulf, and to Canada. It is freely acknowledged, however, that ships are being sunk much more rapidly than they are being launched.

Clearly, therefore, America's military duty is plain. It is not to build dreadnoughts and battle cruisers that will be ready for service three years from now; it is not even to send an "expeditionary force" for its "moral effect." A force, even so small as 100,000 men, would demand a large tonnage, not only for transportation, but for continuous supply, and would thus consume shipping that might be used for the real, pressing military objective of the hour—the feeding of the Allies. Our supreme military duty is to exert all our national energies to making Germany's submarine blockade a failure.

This may not be so spectacular and heroic an enterprise as taking Vimy Heights or assaulting St. Quentin, but it would accomplish infinitely more in bringing the war to a sudden end. That is what Lloyd-George means when he insists on "ships and ships and ships" as the great need of the hour. It is greatly to the credit of the Washington administration that it sees this point just as clearly, and is promptly acting upon this basis.

America Must Feed Her Allies

AMERICA'S duty is thus to grow food and ship it to England and France. Hence the nation-wide movement for the cultivation of all our arable lands. Large wheat fields in America will be quite as potent in the war against Germany as munitions factories; and potatoes will prove just as deadly to the German trenches as hand-grenades and bombs.

Judging from the newspapers and magazines, from the activities of agricultural departments, State and national, of agricultural colleges, garden clubs, granges, and other organizations, the nation has been aroused to this fact. We shall probably see this summer an awakening of interest in American farming that is without parallel in our history. If we fail to do our duty in raising this food supply, we shall be damned forever in the sight of all men.

We have millions of acres that are now going to waste. To let these lie unused, when our allies in Europe are suffering for the food that spells the victory of civilization and democracy—certainly Americans could not be so base as that. Probably the mountains of splendid nutritious food that will be raised by next fall in the United States will astound mankind.

In doing this we shall not only be fighting the battle of mankind, but we shall be developing infinite resources for our future wealth. Some economists figure that Germany, should she stop fighting to-morrow, will be hungry for five years to come. The food situation all over the world, when the war ends, will be acute for a long time. This condition will probably solve the "abandoned farm" problem of the United States, for these large stretches of now waste land, if turned up by the plow to meet the present crisis, will

probably find a market that will keep them going indefinitely.

But this food will not relieve the situation unless we have the ships to transport it. How are we to get these? Our ship-yards are now going night and day, building steel vessels for the whole world. The other day a Cunarder was launched from a Portland ship-yard, and eight Cunard ships have recently been contracted for in Seattle.

Great as is America's production of steel, the unusual demand has heavily drained our resources, and there is now a decided shortage. The production of a fleet of steel steamships in time to meet the submarine menace is out of the question. But the curious result of this war, modern in its large aspects as it is, has been to bring back weapons that military science had long since discarded—the hand-grenade, the bayonet, the steel helmet, for example. And now, to supply the ships that shall save mankind, America finds itself resorting to the engines used in the olden time. About a hundred years ago, when involved in war with England, the United States was greatly inconvenienced by the fact that the British fleet controlled Lake Erie, while we had no naval forces in these waters.

Commodore Perry went to Presque Isle, and spent all the summer constructing, at breakneck speed, an American flotilla. In a period of a few months this improvised fleet was ready, and Perry sailed over and destroyed the enemy. We are attempting to do something like this, though on a gigantic scale, this year.

From Maine to Florida on the Atlantic coast are scores of abandoned ship-yards, once the headquarters of a great wooden shipbuilding industry. On the Pacific are many other yards, and many more places that can be transformed into yards overnight. Equally important, we still have large supplies of lumber, while our engine-builders stand ready to furnish standard engines on any scale demanded.

These places have already begun to resound with the shipbuilding noises that have been stilled for many years. The national government is figuring upon the 150,000 workmen that are needed to make an effectual beginning—if necessary, it will conscript them. Plans are already under way for 1000 ships of from 3000 to 4000 tons—in all, a tonnage of from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000.

Ships Can Be Ready by September

WE shall begin to launch these vessels in September, and shall then be ready to float about 200,000 tons a month—an amount that can be greatly increased as necessities require. The motive power of these ships will be steam; they will be armed against submarines, will have wireless, and will maintain a good speed. They will cost about $300,000 each, and will carry crews of about thirty-five men.

About the time Mr. Hoover has his large food supply ready, these ships will start from a dozen American ports on their adventurous voyages. American war-craft will police lanes from American ports against German submarines, while the British and French navies will take all possible precautions for their safe arrival on the other side—and their own guns will not be idle. Some, perhaps a great many, will be lost; but if a hundred and more yards in the United States are turning them out daily, these wooden ships will take the sea much more rapidly than German submarines can destroy them.

Billions in loans to the Allies and thousands of food-boats—here we have America's first blows against Germany. If, after these facilities are ready, Europe needs our armies, she will get them—and not by the hundreds of thousands, but by the millions. According to present plans, we shall have these huge armies ready when, by the aid of our food and boats, we shall have destroyed the submarine menace. Whether we shall ever have to use them, in large numbers, is another question.

The Blue Aura

By ELIZABETH YORK MILLER

Illustration by Arthur I. Keller

(Continued)

THE taxi bowled Dora along speedily over the route that her mother had taken earlier in the day by a slower and less expensive vehicle. The same servant who had admitted Edith Trelawny now ushered in Dora.

Harland was in the little study. He seemed excited, stirred out of his usual cool facetiousness.

"Well, and did the strong man scold you last night?" he asked.

She laughed into his eyes.

"He did worse than that. We've had an awful time. He—Ted—drank too much. He was so bad we couldn't go on to-day. Tureo was furious."

"Oh! Why did he do that?"

"Because he wanted to, I suppose," she answered, a hoarse little note of anger in her voice.

"And so you thought you'd change your mind?"

"Well, twenty-five quid a week is a lot of money."

"So it is! I wish I could earn that much."

She looked at him, surprised.

"You were only joking, then—about my earning it?"

"Not in the least. My parents didn't raise me to be a ballet dancer, unfortunately. Spending money is more in my line than earning it, and if the time comes when there's no more to spend, I shall be inclined to envy people like you."

"Are you going broke?" Dora asked with innocent wonder.

"Often," Harland replied enigmatically. "Oh, excuse me a moment, will you? There's the telephone."

The telephone was just outside, and Dora could hear every word he said, for in his hurry he did not quite close the door.

"Hello! Is that you?"

Precisely what he had said to her! Dora's nose went up disgustedly.

"Yes, I got your wire. Well? . . . You don't know what he's going to do? . . . Let him try it—two can play at that game. . . . Yes, Trelawny was here this morning. She's a pretty fool, if you like! . . . Oh, I dare say it wasn't wholly her fault. She can't ask Mrs. Darrell for a reference and—what's that? . . . Don't worry. I'm getting her fixed up with something, and she'll hold her tongue right enough. . . . I say, when am I to see you? . . . But you must. I can't—oh, hang it all, if you're going to talk like that! . . . Very well; have it your own way."

Harland came back into the room, to find Dora staring toward the door, white-faced and open-mouthed. He was too excited to note the state she was in.

"Well, well, well!" he exclaimed. "Hang the whole world! Excuse me, beautiful Dora, I must seem a bit wild, but—"

Trelawny—Mrs. Darrell? What did it mean? The connection was fairly clear in Dora's mind. Evidently her mother knew Lord Anthony Harland—had been to see him. What on earth did it mean?

She smiled feebly. "You've got something on your mind," she ventured.

"Yes—and it's heavier than my hair," he replied. "But it's nothing to do with you—so why should you worry?"

Nothing to do with her? Then he did not know that Mrs. Darrell's Trelawny was her mother.

"Would you care to tell me about it?" she asked cautiously. "I mean, could I help you in any way?"

He stared at her for a second—then: "Why not? I've taken a great fancy to you, Dora. I could—almost love you."

"Don't try, if it hurts you," she said, with her widest, frankest smile.

He pulled up a chair close to hers.

"I won't kiss you, if you don't want me to."

"I bet you won't!" she flared back.

Until she said that he had not really wished to kiss her. Now he did.

"Wait. You're not going?"

"I have to get back," said Dora.

"But we've discussed nothing. Will you go to see Symonds? Tell him I sent you. Go at once; there isn't any time to waste, you know. I'll arrange it. I've put about the last of my cash into that blessed show of his, and I can have some say about it."

"You're very kind, but I must be going now."

As he made no move, she ventured to pass him. He caught one of her wrists.

"I'm mad to-night—mad!" he whispered, towering above her.

His arm encircled her shoulders and she felt his breath warm on her cheek. The little mustache grazed her lips. The kiss was no more than a tantalizing touch.

She broke away with a sharp cry, and got out of the house before he could stop her. Revenge? It had proved a boomerang in her unskilful hands.

DORA did not go to see Symonds about the engagement. There were several reasons. For one thing, Dumpling was ill. Tureo begged Dora to help him look after the poor child, and she had not the heart to refuse.

Dumpling's illness helped her to keep up a pose of aloofness from her husband.

That weary week they played Chiswick. Tureo went to and fro from London between the afternoon and evening performances, to see how Dumpling was getting on. Dora remained in her dressing-room at the theater and took a nap each day, so that she could relieve Mrs. Smith and Tureo of some of the night nursing.

Dora had convinced herself that she was in love with Lord Anthony Harland. She received a letter from him asking when he was to see her; and she meant to make some sort of a rendezvous with him as soon as she had a moment to herself. But before that time came something happened.

It was Saturday night—the end of Chiswick, thank goodness! The following Monday they opened at the Viaduct Empire.

Poor little grizzled Tureo was on the verge of collapse. He fell asleep in the train, with his head dropped forward and his toes pointing in like a child's.

"I suppose you'll be going along to Tureo's to-night as usual?" Ted asked.

"Yes," said Dora.

"May I come along and sit up part of the night for you?" Ted asked.

Perhaps she was in a gentler mood. After all, he was her husband.

"Come if you like," she said.

SO they both went back to Tureo's that night. It was close upon midnight when they arrived.

Tureo went in to look at Dumpling. When he joined them at their scratchy supper of bread, cheese, and beer, his monkey's face had an unpleasantly ashen hue.

"Is she worse?" asked Dora.

He shook his head.

"She's sleeping quite peacefully."

"Then do eat something, Tureo, that's a good fellow. You look worn out."

But Tureo could not or would not eat.

"Thank God for Sunday," he said reverently.

After supper Dora tiptoed down to Dumpling's room, and put on the bright flowered kimono she kept there.

A screen sheltered the night-light from the bed, but the curtains were drawn back, and the moon—at the full—filled it with a pale, shimmering radiance.

Dora approached the bed softly.

Dumpling's hair had fallen over the bulging, unnatural brow. She looked almost pretty. The flat little bosom rose and fell automatically. It reminded the watcher of a figure she had once seen at Madame Tussaud's—a wax figure made to breathe by winding up a wire spring.

She felt suddenly afraid. Then Dumpling opened her eyes and smiled.

"Oh, Dora! I was dreaming of you. I dreamed it was the night of my party and you were dancing in your Columbine dress. And I dreamed of Lord Anthony Harland too. He was kissing you, Dora, and Ted was mad with grief. And Tureo killed him—Lord Anthony. I was glad Tureo killed him, for he shouldn't have kissed you, Dora. He isn't your husband."

Dora winced and backed away.

"What a silly dream, Dumpling! Is there anything you want, dear? Shall I give you your milk?"

"No, thank you; I'm not thirsty. I'm feeling ever so much better. But there is something I want. I wish you would dance for me, Dora, like you did the night of the party. If you'd put another pillow under my head I could see quite nicely."

Dora arranged the extra pillow. Her hands were cold and shaking. Why should Dumpling dream that Harland had kissed her?

"Now, Dora, dance, please. Move the screen so I can see better."

Dora moved the screen. Then she took off her kimono and slipped on the pair of ballet slippers that Dumpling had kept as a memento of the great evening.

With her hair sticking out like a black aureole, her neck and arms bare, her short silk petticoat swishing softly, Dora danced in the strangely radiated light.

"Oh, Dora, how lovely you are!" sighed Dumpling. "If I could only have been like you! If I could only have danced—if I could have walked, even! Do it on one toe, Dora, with the other pointed up."

Dora obediently pointed ten minutes to twelve, then let herself down gracefully.

"I am so happy!" Dumpling exclaimed ecstatically. "I feel that I am dancing too."

She tried to raise herself, and held out her arms, but fell back.

Dora ran and bent over her. She was very still. The little flat bosom did not move any more, and the waxen eyelids had drooped. But the lips were held curved in that smile of rapturous pleasure.

Dora dashed madly into the corridor.

"Tureo!" she called in a penetrating whisper.

Tureo heard and came immediately, pattering along in his old dressing-gown and carpet slippers.

"Oh, Tureo!"

He slipped past her into the room. She saw him kneeling by Dumpling's little bed, his face against the mattress.

Dora rushed up to the great dim practice room. Her husband was asleep on the boxing-pad.

"Wake up, wake up!" she called in his ear, as she shook him roughly. "Dumpling's dead."

AFTER that Dora had to be very gentle indeed, on Tureo's account. She had to be gentle to Ted too, because if she wasn't that seemed to hurt Tureo.

He was like a wounded animal in his suffering. Yet he said so little. Dora was sad on her own account, and wept for poor little Dumpling; and, curiously, that seemed almost to please Tureo.

Monday afternoon the four of them,—

including Mrs. Smith,—all crowded into one carriage, followed the hearse to the cemetery, and saw the little coffin lowered into its grave. Then they were trotted back at a smart pace, and it was over.

Nothing would induce Turco to go back to Percy Street, he said. As a matter of fact, no one tried, except Mrs. Smith. She went off to her own lair, wherever it was, when Turco would not be coaxed; and Turco went to Mrs. Petrassini's with the Tysons.

They had a sad pretense of a meal together, and then set forth for the theater.

"Good evening, Mr. La Turesque," said the doorkeeper. "I'm sorry to hear there's been a death in your family."

"Thank you, Mr. Watson," said Turco. "I hope we're not late."

"Nothing to speak of, sir."

Tyson was always dressed first, since he had no elaborate make-up.

When Dora came down, her husband was standing in the wings, chatting with a tall blonde girl in white buckskin tights and a blue military cap and cape. The tall girl had a drum hung by a strap over her shoulder and was twirling the sticks in her bejeweled fingers.

Quite casually, Dora stopped and glanced over a copy of the week's bill that hung in a wooden frame on the door leading to the corridor. Her eye ran down it, and stopped at Number Four:

Miss Molly Brian,
The Drum and Clog Queen,
in
Songs and Dances from her Repertoire, including "Major Billy," "Guess You'll Have to Do It," "The Daft Drummer," etc.

It would be difficult to find two more dissimilar types than Miss Molly Brian and Miss Dora Trelawny. Miss Brian was everything that Miss Trelawny was not—and she was much more of everything, including flesh, height, hair, and complexion. Dora hated her on sight.

She stood aside, watching Ted and Miss Brian, until Turco appeared. She would know when she saw Turco whether or not her suspicions were correct.

Turco cast his eye about, and became aware of the chatting couple. It was difficult to read any expression in his face; but from his attitude Dora knew that he not only recognized Miss Brian, but had a small opinion of her. Tyson looked none too comfortable when he saw his partner, while the Drum and Clog Queen gave Turco one withering glance and turned her back on him.

This, then, was Molly, the unknown *bête noir* who had driven Dora to a frenzy, first of jealousy, and then of a determination to be wicked.

Miss Brian had finished her turn, yet she lingered and seemed determined to chat with Ted. She dabbled after him from one corner of the wings to another.

IT was the acrobats' turn finally. Turco, with the memory of Dumpling a cruel heartache, braced himself for his silly grin and cyclonic entrance. He came on to interrupt the graceful dance and gymnastic postures of the other two.

Dora also had to smile. She and Ted swung on, hand in hand.

Her face was a mask, but a mobile one. She gave him a smile like forked lightning, and said with a hiss between her set teeth:

"*So that's Molly—eh?*"

"Oh, shut up!" he answered *sotto voce*, giving the audience the smirk that was expected of him.

"I admire your taste!" said Dora, as she stood on one toe and surprised him with the usual feather kiss on the ear.

It was a lucky thing for Tyson that he dodged just the least bit; for when she kissed—at him, on this occasion—her jaws snapped viciously.

"Look out what you're doing!" he growled, swinging her to his shoulder.

She hung poised like a fluffy, curving feather, blowing kisses at the audience.

"It's you who'd better look out," she advised, as she jumped down and they advanced, hand in hand, to take the call.

Until now she had been too concerned with her own affairs to pay much attention to the audience; but now she had to, a little. Her smiling gaze was drawn mechanically to the boxes first, and then she saw Lord Anthony Harland.

He had come to the Viaduct Empire to see her, of course; and he was alone. She let him know that she knew he was there, and then threw herself heart, soul, and body into all the coquetry the turn allowed her.

Then it was Turco's entrance, the signal for a loud burst of applause. He came on with his furious chain somersaults as if shot out of a gun, and arose, calm and leering, hands in pockets, cigarette in his grossly painted mouth.

Poor Turco!

As he hurried away toward the dressing-room afterward, Dora close behind him, tears were rolling down his whitened cheeks.

"Oh, poor Turco!" Dora cried, gripping his arm hard. "Oh, Turco, it was plain hell, wasn't it?"

THE Viaduct Empire was not a big theater, and she shared a dressing-room with Ted.

He followed her up immediately, slammed the door, and stood ready to give her battle.

Such being the case, Dora refused to quarrel, and adopted an air of cold unconcern. She began in a businesslike way to prepare herself for the street.

"Well?" demanded Ted impatiently.

"Well—what?"

"What did you mean by playing the fool? You nearly bit my ear."

"Coward!" she taunted. "Was it afraid, then, it might get nipped?"

"You're a jealous little cat!"

"Jealous? Oh, I like that," said Dora. "What have I to be jealous of?"

He went over to her and gripped her wrists, bending down so that his face almost touched hers.

"I saw that fellow in the box—I saw you look at him. After what happened—last week—if you dare—!"

"Dare what?" Dora asked in a curiously flat voice.

"To play about—flirt—and hurt me—"

"What will you do? Go back to your Molly?"

"You silly fool! As though I ever cared, or could care, for anybody in this world but you! And you've treated me like a pickpocket lately—just because I cared so much."

"She drove you to drink, too—that big fat blonde," Dora stated coldly.

"And you might drive me to murder," he said in a husky whisper.

Dora closed her eyes. Garishly bright as the little room was, with its twenty unshaded electric bulbs, it grew black.

Ted sank on his knees, terrified by her sudden pallor.

"Darling—I didn't mean to frighten you. What have I done, that we can't be friends?"

He knelt before her and buried his face in her fluffy tulle skirts.

The poor clown!

For it was the handsome boy, so strong and stalwart, so lovably quick to repent of his hot speech, who was the true clown where life was concerned—not Turco.

"You haven't done anything—really," she gasped. "Only, the night Dumpling died—it seems years ago, somehow—she told me about a dream she had. She dreamed that Turco killed him—Lord Anthony."

All might have been well—or better—if they hadn't been obliged to play the week out at the Viaduct Empire, with Molly Brian in the same bill.

Having softened toward her husband, Dora grew hard again when the big blonde appeared; and Miss Brian was always appearing. She seemed to live in the wings, clad perpetually in white buckskin tights and pseudo-military accouterments.

Turco and she avoided each other like the plague; but she smiled at Dora, and was smiled back at in such alarming fashion that she dared not introduce herself.

Dora believed the worst of her husband and Miss Brian. The day he got his hair cut, she accused him of a secret rendezvous with the blonde charmer. When she caught him making out a laundry list, she accused him of writing to Miss Brian. He flourished the evidence of his innocence before her eyes, but she shut them and refused to look.

She was, in fact, cooking up a first-class drama for herself, playing the rôle of deceived wife. She saw herself deserted, and turning in bitter desolation to the only man who understood her. It would have been very sad indeed—if it were true.

Toward the end of the week, Harland again appeared in the box, and remained only for the Tyco-Turco act. This was the signal for another domestic row.

Ted took his trouble to Turco. He was jealous of Dora, and Dora was jealous of him; what were they to do about it?

"Kiss and make up," said Turco, who was sick of their fighting.

"But Dora won't—she hates me," said the unhappy husband.

"Then why is she jealous?"

"Because she's a devil. I'd do anything in the world for her."

Turco looked at his partner, the monkey's eyes blinking pathetically.

"I knew we'd have trouble," he said slowly. "I knew it that first night when you brought her to Chapin's. I wish I could think of something."

"I wish you could," Ted cried fervently. "Isn't it rotten luck Molly should turn up here this week?"

"I must talk to Dora and find out what's the matter with her," said Turco.

HE did talk to Dora.

Dora's imaginative drama had carried itself to an Ibsenish climax. The deserted wife by this time was learning to love "the only man who understood her" and preparing to fly with him to lands and fate unknown.

Turco did not know how Ted had wounded her, she said. She could forgive anything but deception (which was rather rich, coming from her). She felt she had lost Ted's love.

"And perhaps you *will* lose it if you're not careful," said Turco, meaning well, but working even greater mischief. "Anyway, I know what's the matter with you. You're getting notes from his lordship and meeting him on the sly. Don't talk to me about your being deceived."

Dora's eyes opened wide. How had Turco guessed? A part, at least, of his accusation was true, and the rest of it was coming true that afternoon.

"Awfully clever, aren't you?" she said. "Dora, what's the matter with you?"

If Dora had said she was suffering from enlargement of the imagination it would have been the truth and he might have understood; but Dora did not know the nature of her disease.

"I guess I'm dead sick of everything and everybody," she proclaimed unkindly.

After Turco left, Dora went to her tryst. She had not seen Harland to speak to since the night she ran away from him; but they had written to each other. His letters came to the theater, but Ted took no notice, because there were always plenty of letters for Dora.

LORD ANTHONY was expecting her. The eyes of the sedate man-servant who let her in were veiled in discretion. Dora would have liked to ask him what he was thinking about and how he dared to have such thoughts. In the mourning put on for Dumpling, which served for a deserted wife's costume, she followed him haughtily into the study.

"Mrs. Tyson, my lord."

Harland took both of her hands warmly.

"I thought I was never, never going to have this pleasure again!" he exclaimed. "Sit down—make yourself comfy. Let me take your coat. How thin and sad you look in that black dress!"

Dora raised eyes full of melancholy.

"I am very unhappy," she said in her carefully rehearsed rôle.

"So am I," Harland replied, sobering.

He, at least, was not play-acting, and Dora did not know that she was.

"I don't think you'd better write to me any more. Turco suspects—he must have seen one of your letters."

"Are you afraid of the professor?"

"Not exactly—only there might be trouble. My husband is jealous. He saw you both times—and we've had an awful week. There—there's another girl that he used to be fond of. She's in he bill this week."

"Not really!"

"Yes. Perhaps you saw her—a big fat yellow-haired thing named Molly Brian."

Harland laughed. "So the strong man is making up to his old love, eh?"

"I don't quite know—but we don't feel the same toward each other."

Harland sat down on the couch beside her and took her hand.

"Tell me all about it. How do you feel yourself?" He was most sympathetic. His arm crept about her shoulders.

"Tell me. You love me, don't you?"

"I—I'm not sure," she whispered.

"But you're unhappy."

"Oh, yes—dreadfully unhappy!"

"Couldn't I change all that? I want to take you away from the whole world. Have you ever been to Spain, beautiful Dora?"

It was a great pity that the unprincipled villain should play the part of Dora's hero with such perfection. The word "Spain" had done it. Spain provoked mad visions of sun and bull-fights, neither of which was to be had in London at the moment.

"No," she said; "I have never been to Spain."

"I am going. I start this day week, I shall spend a week in Paris first, and then go on straight to Madrid. Afterward—anywhere. It doesn't matter."

Dora sighed. It flashed across her mind that she was worse than a fool to listen to all this. To her credit she had that thought, but to her discredit she banished it instantly.

"Would you care to think it over?" he suggested. "This day week, at eleven o'clock, Charing Cross. Don't worry about clothes. You can buy anything you like in Paris."

"Yes, I'll think it over," said Dora, with an effort. But, having committed herself thus far, she was loath to go any farther. She let him kiss her, but her response was feeble, and she left almost immediately, without having any tea.

A GREAT depression was upon her. What was she about to do? The question of right and wrong did not enter into it at all, as far as she was concerned.

That night after the performance she went to Chapin's for supper with Ted and Turco, and saw the man whom she had every reason to believe was her father entertaining a Bohemian party.

"He's a wicked old man," she said to herself, "and I'm his daughter."

Continued on page 19

F. HOPKINSON SMITH *used to say that he did not know how his leading character ought to look until Keller showed him. Arthur I. Keller began his studies in the New York Academy of Design, continuing them in Munich; for a quarter of a century he has been delighting the eyes of magazine readers. For this magazine he has illustrated three serials—"The Mystery at Woodford's," "The Spirit of Kings," and now "The Blue Aura." We like his work so much that we decided this week's illustration deserved a full page, and in gravure at that.*

"'I am so happy!' Dumpling exclaimed ecstatically. 'I feel that I am dancing too.' She tried to raise herself, and held out her arms, but fell back."

GREAT UN

Photographs from

WHEN it comes to printing pictures the newspaper and magazine fellows get into awful jams. We give you Pickford in forty-nine different poses and Mary Pickford as Mary Pickford in "Poor Little Mary Pickford." But what engaging her every publishers the picture of Harry Gaily. He is the head of a grocery business larger than any other. He dropped a million dollars worth of groceries in the bay last year, when he wanted to hire a new man for his company bought the man's business for $700,000 to get him. Shouldn't that article have to have his picture printed?

YOU'VE heard of Henry often enough but it's dollars to doughnuts you never heard of Larry Pond. Two or three years ago Larry who used to be a newspaper man, got a crowd of fellows together around the kitchen stove and said:

Boys, let's build a flivver."

Today the Saxon Company is one of the eight largest automobile plants in the world. We are proud to take in with Henry our plan of raising the way which is to buy one million of his flivvers and start them with dynamite blow them into high speed, and start them all across the roaches for Berlin

UP at Quebec they have been trying to bridge the St. Lawrence and no disasters have occurred. But when it came to putting a steel arch bridge across Hell Gate, at the entrance to New York harbor, an engineer named Gustave Lindenthal slid it on the first try. The

ONE step which is the way all great new stories should start about Henderson took a little jaunt on a bicycle so he could pace along a few friends who were bicycle racers and look at the pretty ankles while he was really about to—and while a few days later he pocketed a check for $1,000,000. That is his photograph but whether he also invented the bicycle bath-tub wheel attachment so the rest of the bathers can't run away with the children in their bathing

YOU have heard of the Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville, also the Wrong brothers Willie Heinemeiler and Charlie Engelberg. But probably you have already forgotten Prides and Langley whose experiments in aviation resulted in a contraption that flew for a few seconds dropped, crashing the old stick & string and more than likely you never heard of Dr. William Christmas at all. Yet he was an associate of Professor Langley and has just taken out a patent on an aeroplane built on an entirely different principle

Photograph by Underwood

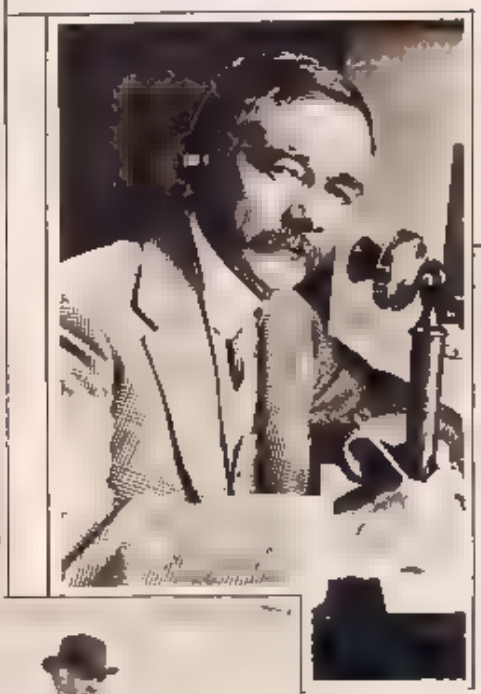
HERE is the inside information about Frank Gilbreth who had to go to Europe and wait eight years to get his ideas recognized. It will be patented a stand which increased several times the number of bricks an average brick-layer can put up in one day. Street signs.

NKNOWNS

Brown Brothers

Biggest steel arch in the world yet of the millions of rich and intelligent and influential people who read this magazine (advertisers please note) we doubt if there are who ever heard Mr. Lindenthal's name or know the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

C. B. Brown



SOME men do their work in the public eye, like the gentlemen washers on the windows of high restaurants, and some men, laboring faithfully in the basements, pass through the mortal lunatic Franklin Remington, stroke of the Harvard crew of '97 does his work mainly feet below the basement. He put in the cement foundations for the Woolworth Tower and other buildings of this nature, etc. What goes up must go down."

THE next time you are telephoning from New York to San Francisco, and Central says "I trip another fourteen dollars and sixty-nine cents, please," think how much more it would cost you if you had to make the trip and listened to telephoning and be grateful. Hardly. the great engineer who has made the great achievements of the telephone possible. "There is only one improvement in the telephone yet to come, a device that will remind the busy signal to be fair to the people we don't want to talk to, the moment they ask for the number.

ONE of the greatest lawyers in the country never goes to court, and never lets his name get into the papers if there is any possible way to prevent it. Yet when J. P. Morgan wants a legal service he sends for Paul Cravath. If Mr. Cravath can settle the troubles of his financier friends in his own offices, he saves their cases over others and lets them fight it out. His idea of the place for a lawyer is a room hallowed around by iron shutters, waiting for the sheriff to bring over the prisoners.

WHEN we were talking to Frank Gilbreth, recorded elsewhere on this page, he told us that every time he opened a patent-office volume he ran into the name Charles Scribner. He is the chap who has been quietly patenting everything Edison forgot to invent. He has more inventions to his credit than any other living man, including the device that did away with the crank on the telephone box. Never heard of Charles Scribner? Everyone here is much we have [illegible] we some times [illegible]

by "time studies." He has taught girls how to turn out much more work with less effort and has simplified many other industrial processes. Thank goodness, we have use of the few jobs in the world into which efficiency can not be introduced.

PEOPLE WHO GET 100 PER CENT.

Photograph by Bellevue Studios

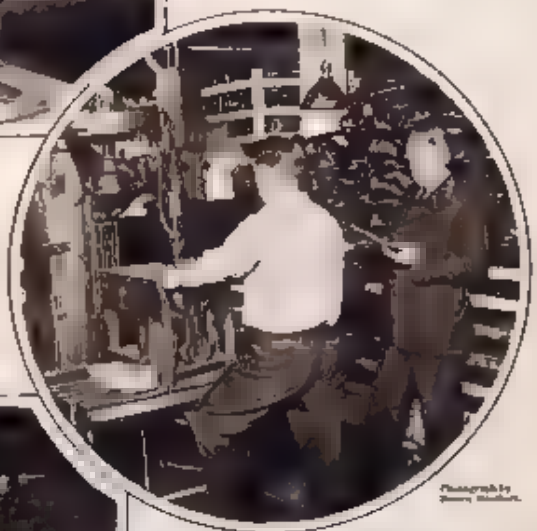
WHILE Audrey Munson was disporting herself in the waves of Coronado Beach, California, one day a stranger with an accent and a beard intercepted a breaker-p aise her by the hand and declare: "Your figure is a gif fr m heaven, and you are going to pose for me." Somet hing in the stranger's aspect arrested Miss Munson a first natural girlish. Because Paolo impulse which was to slash him in the eye with a handful of water. That reference was good, for soon she learned that it was Prince Troubetskoi, sculptor who addressed her. Face and figure experts have marked Miss Munson 100 per cent

WE in America didn't hold much with kings and such until we got acquainted with Albert of the Belgians. All kings were about fifty-fifty or per haps sixty-forty with us until that August day in 1914 when Albert got off his horse back of the walls of Liege and told the Germans what was what. We gave him 75 per cent. then and there without reluctance and when, with valiant courage, he led his little army into the teeth of the oncoming hordes a doomed yet sublime re sistance—we chalked him down 85 per cent. king. There are different opinions about everybody and every thing, but it is a safe bet that no one will dissent in classifying Albert as a regular hundred per center

ABOUT sixteen years ago Cohan was a young man with long legs somewhat insecurely attached to his body a drill argh and a funny voice appearing on the vaudeville stage with his papa, mama, and sister under the caption, "Four Cohans." One day he wrote a play "Little Johnny Jones" and was a success. That was in 1903. Since then he has written a great number of plays, alone and with this per son and that person. But there has never been a failure in which the name of George M. Cohan has been attached. Which makes Cohan a 100 per cent. record a thing without precedent

"WHAT is nobler than the dog?" sings Poetess Ella Wheeler W Yes, you are. Here's a dog, for instance, who belongs to E. P. Roberts, owner of the famous Mohegan quarries at Peekskill, New York, from which the granite used in the construction of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, is being taken. "Pompey, stone your dog as playing with," said a geologist friend one day. "No!" said Roberts. "Real rose granite by Jove!" exclaimed the friend. Revert of the stone, they went to get another. His master followed him. Mr. Roberts is now realizing a cool little $200,000 annually from the quarry Gyp discovered.

JOHN RYAN was awarded 100 in the State-wide better baby contest in New York last April. Then the judges put all the winners in various classes to gether and he beat all the win ners. First he won a jeweled medal and a silver cup, and Mrs. Vincent Astor put $100 in gold in the cup. Then he was carried up Fifth Avenue in triumph



HOW would you like to realize a million per cent. on an hour's ingenuity and a few pieces of waste wood? This is what Clarence White has done as the result of his invention of what is known as the "kiddie car." Mr. White had a small son who used to cry to go riding in an automobile. Now Mr. White hasn't even a flivver, but he had a father's heart and the tears of Clarence Jr. hurt him. So he went out in the woodshed and built the "kiddie car." Soon all the small boys on the block were clamoring for similar vehicles. Mr. White felt that he had a good thing, so he got out a patent and started a factory. Last year his profits were exactly a million dollars. His factory now turns out 3500 kiddie cars a day. Clarence Jr. no longer longs to motor. He prefers to kiddie car

They Love Us —They Love Us Not

We Go to School

Dear Editor

May I say just a few words in appreciation of EVERY WEEK? With its [illegible] stories [illegible] condensed information and [illegible] beautiful [illegible] just a little [illegible] adjunct to our family. My little daughter relies on your book review and science pages for help in school. Mrs. I. J. M.

California Cares

Dear Editor

Allow me to say that I am watching the growth of your magazine [illegible] So popular is the book that I have to place my order several days in advance so that I may secure a copy. The original photographs, together with the [illegible] articles make EVERY WEEK an important asset in any home. S. L., Oakland, Cal.

Short but Very Sweet

Dear Editor

Your magazine could not be improved if you charged $1 a copy.

E. R. S., Rochester, N. Y.

A Banker Backs Us

Dear Editor

Don't think me a "garrulous old ouss" but I want to say that your magazine ranks high and I enjoy reading it very much. From a practical banker's point of view, your financial articles for investors please me very much and if [illegible] to [illegible] persons untrained in such matters. C. W. B., Dorchester, Mass.

Want a Best Friend

Dear Editor

Please put an ad in your paper that I am [illegible] for a [illegible] friend. My old chum still holds that place, but, you see, she is away at boarding-school. This unknown girl should be fifteen years old, five feet four, with bobbed curly hair and brown eyes.

C. H., Rochester, N. Y.

An Acrostic

Every Week your publication
Very welcome is to me;
For my week, with great elation,
Readers scan with ecstasy
Your text and picture gallery.

Waiting [illegible] look for live
For my week the days [illegible]
Every week the artist's touch
Kindles joy and kills the grouch.

C. C. C. C., Brooklyn, N. Y.

A Gay Deceiver

Dear Editor

I wish to be set right. While I am considerably past the flapper stage, I am not old—nineteen, in fact. Neither am I a beauty or hard to gaze upon. My friends refer to me as happy-go-lucky and a girl without a care. People say that I have never seemed worried or annoyed. They are right, and they are wrong. I have [illegible] things the same as the [illegible] are blessed with ability [illegible] There are worries [illegible] which I have been [illegible] the [illegible] I have been [illegible] and [illegible] am satisfied in deceiving people or not as to my real feelings. What do you think?

L. B., Chicago.

More than Coronets

Dear Editor

Thank you for the timeliness, scope of vision, and simplicity of utterance characteristic of all the material in your magazine. Please send me your garden booklet. Also let me express my appreciation of the way you [illegible] in [illegible] personal [illegible] and by [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] should [illegible]

J. E. S., Washington, D. C.

An Earnest Letter

Dear Editor

Your article on [illegible] Feb. [illegible] Father struck a responsive [illegible] as I know it must have in many others. I am unbiddenly sending you a copy of the note I wrote ten years ago several hours before our little daughter was born (until now no other eye has seen these words).

[illegible]

of responsibility your [illegible] of having [illegible] be [illegible] be [illegible] to upright [illegible] manhood or womanhood. [illegible]

[illegible]

Professors, Attention!

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] a [illegible] you [illegible] excellent school teacher, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] information. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] reading [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

"Was he being impertinent, or was he making talk?" She smiled she knew.

The Mollycoddle

By ELIZABETH JORDAN

Illustrations by Dawson Powell

[illegible] Neith [illegible] fright [illegible]

[illegible] and bent-mien in the Boyden camp could hide effort [illegible] her own features in the [illegible] [illegible]

"[illegible]

[illegible] he [illegible] feel like playing with [illegible] and twenty-two. In the second place I don't believe he knows anything about [illegible] Jim hasn't told me much about him—said he was keeping him as [illegible] Jim's sister raised her eyes [illegible] "But I've an idea that he's the high-brow type [illegible] will bring a trunkful of books up here to [illegible]

[illegible] Miss Wentworth [illegible]. "Perhaps your mother will take him off our hands," she suggested.

Miss Boyden frowned.

[illegible] thought for [illegible] friend [illegible] thirty-five not fit. But still [illegible] of Jim to invite a guest here and then not even show up to meet him [illegible] guest will hate it as much as we do."

"How do you say his name was?"

Miss Wentworth, who had an optimistic [illegible] her daughter's eyes had clouded.

"Lambert. I think [illegible] looks like an atrocious handwriting. Neith's voice edg[illegible] "Why not [illegible] creatures? All we know is that he [illegible] Jim's chum and [illegible] all so comfy and jolly [illegible] with a sigh, "that [illegible] and [illegible] well, really I don't see why you're [illegible] about it, Neith. He [illegible]

Miss Boyden's voice dripped [illegible] "I've seen his photograph."

"It was in a group snap-shot that Jim [illegible] but it gave me an idea, of [illegible]

"Ahh!"

"And very thin."

"Oh."

"All the other men in the group were [illegible] khaki, but he wore a serge suit and a sailor hat."

"Ahh!"

"And his shoes were a bull-dog [illegible]

"[illegible] the effect of the picture [illegible] Miss Boyden shot her [illegible]

"Here [illegible] to-night."

"I saw will he get here?"

"He's to row to Jetter's Point with a guide, and walk from there."

"Hmm. That proves he can walk, anyway," mused Miss Wentworth.

"Six miles! What's six miles?"

[illegible] "Some way, after what you said," giggled Mary Wentworth, "I imagined him riding into camp on a [illegible]

"[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

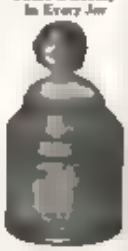
Keep Youthful!

"A woman can be young but once, but she can be youthful always." It is the face that tells the tale of time. Faithful use of

Ingram's Milkweed Cream

will keep the skin fresh and youthful. Sarah Bernhardt began its use twenty years ago—today she is proclaimed "young at seventy-one"

There is Beauty in Every Jar



60c and $1

Milkweed Cream is a [illegible] purpose [illegible] More than a "face cream" of the ordinary sort. A skin-delight cream. There is no substitute.

"Just to show the proper place" use Ingram's Powder. A soft perfection. Tinted right for [illegible]. There's Ingram's Rouge. A safe preparation. Tinted right for [illegible]. There's Ingram's Perfume. There's Ingram's [illegible]

Send 4c in stamps for one of Ingram's Week-End Sets containing [illegible]

Frederick F. Ingram Company

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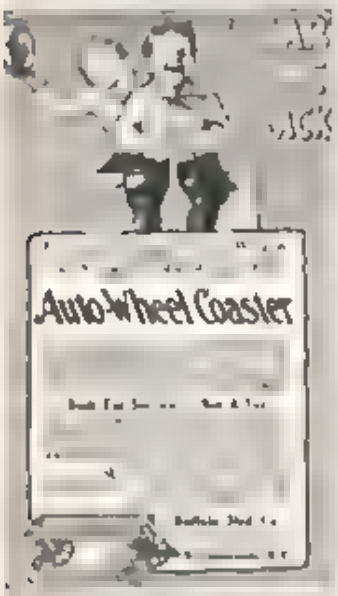

Auto-Wheel Coaster

Send for Booklet Sent Free

Buffalo Steel Co.

THE ORIGINAL GENUINE

ROWE'S GLOUCESTER HAMMOCK

[illegible]

[illegible] ROWE & SON, Inc.

[illegible]

Moore Push-Pins

[illegible] Made in 3 sizes: Wee Points, Mimeo Points, Clinching Points. 10c per pkt. Complete with the Tacker. Insist on Moore Push-Pins. Chgo. Newark, N.J. Montreal. At 10c. Tacker, Clinching Points. If not at your dealer's, we will mail Tacker and 1 pkt. Push-Pins, Assorted Sizes, for 25c. Moore Push-Pin Co., Dept. 66, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Your program is charming," he agreed.

She left him to amuse himself during the morning and to listen to Mrs. Hayden's gentle patter, while she herself wrote letters in her tent. At noon she [illegible] in the living-room in walking [illegible] carrying a compactly filled basket, which he at once took from her. She observed with grim interest that his preparation for the "hike" consisted in putting on his sailor hat. His heavy black walking shoes were serviceable [illegible] but she reflected with satisfaction that by evening Jay would certainly have lost some of their high lights.

WHEN Neith and her guest left camp she struck into the nearest trail, but when it forked off toward [illegible] she struck forward, and the Mollycoddle followed her contentedly, walking close behind her and listening with unfeigned appreciation to her discourse upon trees and other vegetation around them. She was not quite sure of all she told him, but he accepted her statements without question and seemed grateful for her instructions as to how to distinguish pine from the cedar and the spruce.

Even sadly it became plain that, whether or not he was weary of the trail, he was certainly weary of wood lore. He led her to talk of herself and of the American girl in general—her education, her interests, her theories, her efficiency, her self-reliance. He seemed so interested in all she could tell him, and his questions were so far-reaching, that at one point [illegible] grew [illegible]

had changed. Once or twice he put into a few words a thought that subsequently and oddly occupied her thoughts.

"It would be very easy to [illegible] nature," was one of his remarks, "if our instincts guide us. At first they invariably do so. Children, even babies, like at once those they can trust and those they can not trust. But when we get older most of us ignore and smother the natural instinct instead of cultivating it as one of the most precious things we have."

At four o'clock they made their noonday [illegible]. Looking expert assistance she allowed [illegible] no fire, but produced everything from [illegible] oven to coffee kept hot in air-tight bottles. He seemed fascinated [illegible] ration. Once she caught him [illegible] her oiled paper [illegible]

[illegible] you people call this roughing it?"

[illegible] rang in his tone filled Miss Hayden with resentment. He was actually [illegible] his mollycoddle [illegible]

[illegible] in Hyde Park.

"Oh, we rough it all right at times," she [illegible] who like rough life and are accustomed to it.

"But you soften the bitter hardships for me? I see."

Was he jeering at her?

"Tell me," he [illegible]

[illegible] she continued, "within thirty miles of our camp."

"Ever been out?"

"Why, yes, several [illegible] we came. Not lately—not for several [illegible]

"I dare say you've learned how to meet any emergency that comes up—[illegible] expert at first aid and all that?"

[illegible] it, or was he [illegible]

Meantime she [illegible]

"I know a little, but I've never really [illegible] many of us, and my brothers or our friends are always around when [illegible]

"What does happen?"

Was he getting nervous?

"Oh, little things. Canoes upset sometimes, but we all swim like fish [illegible] occasionally some one's lost, or there's a snake-bite [illegible]

He raised his eyebrows.

"Snake-bites sound serious. Is an emergency kit, I suppose, you apply your lips to the wound and draw out the poison?"

He was laughing at her! Then [illegible] was furious; but [illegible]

The next instant a doe came [illegible] shot past them like a whitish [illegible] and disappeared. Neith heard [illegible] and saw the same [illegible]

where the doe had vanished.

"Good!" he cried. "I'm glad the pretty thing got away."

Harsh explosion. It brought Neith up on her knees.

"The fool!" she exclaimed. "The [illegible] unspeakable id[illegible]

Then, seeing Lambert turn slowly toward her, she instinctively motioned him to the ground.

[illegible] she explained [illegible] edition of a hunter [illegible]

[illegible] was silent. She stared a[illegible] him.

Her lips curled, then not. He was her guest and a stranger to the woods. She must make allowance for him. There was a tradition of silence. He seemed to be doing something, she did not know [illegible]

"It's all right now," she said at last.

Lambert interrupted her by lifting his voice in a call. It was an unusual call, high and surprisingly far-reaching, but it added the final accent to Miss Hayden's irritation.

"There's no one calling now," she said curtly. "If the hunter had seen or heard us, he'd have come at once. As it is, he's gone off in another direction."

Without heeding her he called again [illegible] [illegible] don't do that!" she [illegible] "We don't want him! We don't know who the creature may be."

"Oh, but we do want him [illegible] man's veins had changed [illegible]

[illegible] stared at her guest, and what she saw brought her slowly to her feet. His pallor had deepened, his lips were blue, and on the spot where he lay a large stain showed and grew.

"You're shot!" she cried. "Where—"

"Only my leg. He hasn't killed me [illegible] was smiling at her, but she shrank and closed her eyes.

[illegible] losing a lot of blood," he added, "and I'll need some help. So, if the hunters are near enough to hear—"

SHE was calling again before he had finished, calling frantically now, and as she called she rushed in the direction from which the sound of the shot had come. But there was [illegible] whisky bottle that lay near [illegible] hardly a hundred yards away. returned, he read her report from her face

Fresh Vigor

for the

Weak and Anaemic

JUST budding into womanhood—but [illegible] You want so much to help but how? That is the [illegible] question.

With every confidence that it will give *real* help you may put her [illegible]

Sanatogen supplies to the pale and debilitated just the food for tissue and blood building—albumen [illegible] and just the element for revitalizing the nervous system—organic phosphorus. It feeds these elements in such perfect union that even the weakest constitution can digest and assimilate them.

Thousands of physicians—over 21,000 have written their approval of Sanatogen—prescribe it because they have seen how it improves the appetite, increases physical [illegible] blood current, tones up the [illegible] that feeling of [illegible] and lassitude.

[illegible] you let Sanatogen help [illegible]

Sanatogen is sold by good druggists everywhere, in sizes from $1.00 up

before she could speak. She held up the [illegible] to be seen.

"He's over and probably drunk," he [illegible] When he heard us call he [illegible] and blundered so he ran away. Well, we've got to muddle through [illegible] how much fourteen [illegible]

No, not he, but his manner. [illegible] changed. It [illegible]

"Never mind. I can manage if you will help me to [illegible] tree and prop [illegible]

He dragged himself over the few feet [illegible] and he assisted as well as [illegible] which [illegible] he [illegible] not be free, he shut [illegible] for a moment and she thought he had fainted. But he opened them again [illegible]

"Now you [illegible] I [illegible] sight of blood would [illegible]

"I can [illegible]

"[illegible] will not [illegible] had [illegible] Jakes [illegible]

[illegible] eyes off some [illegible]

He was [illegible]

"Will [illegible] "And now [illegible]

"Think [illegible] Now [illegible] The wounded [illegible]

NEITH [illegible] While [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] hers. But [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

friend, who had finally found his feet, now started for the door, making a military contribution to the conversation

"He's drunker than you, but he's got more brains," commented the Mollyeoddle. "Fair—"

The second man [illegible] the door. Leaning against it, he began to laugh.

"Say [illegible]" he chortled. "We crumped— em—after— we—hit—the man!"

[illegible] the Mollycoddle was ready for him. He whirled the rifle in his hand, and as his assailan reached [illegible] bringing [illegible] the other's head [illegible] and [illegible] still [illegible] toward the man on the floor he knelt over him.

"You vo- - you've killed him," he stammered.

"If I have, it's up to you. If you had [illegible] and let me work my [illegible] would both have been well [illegible] and a man he thought was helpless, and he got exactly what was coming to him."

"My God!" muttered the other.

"The only question now," continued the smooth tones from the [illegible] "For if I do," continued [illegible] "believe me, my friend, I find some way to kill you before we get through."

The other looked away. [illegible] ng," he muttered. "It [illegible] do [illegible] ma [illegible] gun [illegible] has [illegible] er [illegible] us [illegible] them [illegible] s to [illegible] T [illegible] can [illegible]

It was the first remark she had made.

"Good. Get him, too. Write the letter, please. Here's a pencil. While she's

Neith tore the fly-leaf out of a book, wrote her message.

"Now tell him how to keep to the trail."

be a lantern around this camp."

In ten minutes the messenger was gone and the log door was locked and barred.

[illegible] almost exhausted by their long search in the woods. Doctor Dartwell came with [illegible] ministering to Mrs. Dos [illegible] attack brought on by her daughter's absence. When he had attended to [illegible] patients [illegible] in Nish, [illegible] a Japanese, he returned to Neith.

"Get off to bed," he ordered. Then he added casually: "It's been a hard experience for you, but think of having Larimer with you!"

"I couldn't have had any one better!" Miss Boyden spoke indignantly, resenting criticism of the Mollycoddle. "He was [illegible] best, not Larimer."

The doctor stared at her.

"Is it possible you don't know who the man is?" he asked. "My dear [illegible]

"Yes, Larimer; the explorer and author: the [illegible] hunter of Africa."

"He—he was [illegible] orave," stammered Neith. The room was [illegible]

"Well, naturally. He [illegible] every part of [illegible]

[illegible] worst carnivor. No wonder!"

[illegible] in his gray eyes the long, long [illegible] and given her—had not meant [illegible] She was still smiling when she [illegible]

The Blue Aura

Continued from page 10

It seemed somehow to excuse her own wickedness.

AFTER Dora had gone, Lord Anthony sighed deeply and went to his crowded little desk. Out of a drawer he took a [illegible] and made a half-hearted [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] to tell [illegible] to [illegible] whom he had already sufficiently injured in her husband's sight. Unless he did so, "our client, Mr Robert Darrell of The Manor, Hillborough, Sussex, will be obliged to take proceedings."

Mrs [illegible] Dare [illegible] the [illegible] did not suggest any way by which it could be mended. She loved him, Harland believed, but she was done with him.

Dora was his mean revenge. He meant to let Mrs. Robert Darrell know about Dora, and he was not in the least afraid of scandal where the foolish little ballet dancer was concerned.

He wrote to his brother asking for money; to the solicitor stating that he was leaving for the Continent Friday of next week; to his own solicitor inquiring about [illegible] Miss Edith Trelawny, inclosing a five-pound [illegible] [illegible] note [illegible]

The [illegible] was [illegible] he [illegible] [illegible] mailed for six months. In six months

any threatened scandal would have blown over.

He did not look ahead as to what was to become of Dora. That was her affair. At the moment he was occupied with his own unhappiness and how best to allay it. His love for the woman whose reputation he had jeopardized was very real. She had kept him dangling at arm- [illegible] [illegible] a little [illegible] He was not the dearest thing in the world to her.

It was a bitter moment. He thought of her tearful and contrite in the midst of her family explaining that it was all a silly flirtation and had meant nothing [illegible] he knew.

He had accepted her verdict. She was of his own class, and he could not injure her without her consent. Dora was different. Dora did not matter.

Such a man as Lord Anthony Harland deserves no sympathy, but perhaps his mother would have pitied him, had she known. Certainly no one else would. There was even a cold, flinty look in the eye of his man-servant when he announced a part of their plans [illegible] companionship. He dined at his club [illegible] and afterward [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] left after the first not.

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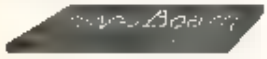

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[illegible] Dora had noticed. The [illegible] had come up [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

"I think it's a pity you should have such ideas," he said.

"Don't you think I'm winked?"

She was rather disappointed at his taking it so quietly.

"I suppose you must be. What made you want to run off with Harland? 'Cause he asked you to?"

Dora flushed uncomfortably.

"And what made you change your mind?" Turco persisted. "Because you met a woman with a baby who told you how happy she was? Haven't you anything in you yourself, Dora? Are you a chameleon?"

"Don't you call me names!" Dora said fiercely. "Cham—chameleon yourself!"

Turco laughed.

"Well, we can't sit here jawing all the evening. Time to be getting along to the ball."

"But I haven't had my tea."

"That isn't my fault. You'll have to wait."

"But Ted hasn't come in yet. Where can he be?"

Turco shrugged his shoulders and reached for his hat.

"Ted'll come along. You haven't treated him any too well lately, you know—"

"Oh, but I shall be so nice to him tonight!" Dora exclaimed. "And, Turco—when we get that flat you'll come to live with us."

"If you're sure you want me," said Turco, trying not to seem too pleased.

IT was their last night at the Viaduct Empire. Next week they had no date, and Dora meant to snatch the opportunity for flat-hunting and furnishing.

Ted showed up in the dressing-room a little late. He said he'd been out to the Zoo with a chap of his acquaintance.

For once in her life, Dora was unsuspicious, although he stated it rather clumsily.

"Well, you are a one!" she cried. "Make haste, now. You've only got ten minutes."

She wafted out of the dressing-room to give him more space, and in the corridor ran into Miss Millie Brian wearing street clothes and getting a sound scolding from the stage manager. Obviously she had just come in.

"You go on at eight, and we've had to put Number Twelve in your place. You know very well, Miss Brian—"

"Oh, chuck it! I can go on in twelve's place, can't I? You're always shifting us about, when it suits you. You can do it to suit me, for once in a way."

"Well, what's your excuse, then?"

"I've been spending my time in the monkey-house, if you must know; but as there's plenty of 'em knocking about here—"

Turco was passing her as she spoke, and possibly she combined impertinence to the manager with insult to Turco.

Dora, following Turco, felt herself grow cold all over. She grasped his arm.

"Turco—she and Ted—that woman! They've been to the Zoo together. Ted said that was why he was late—and you just heard what she said."

"Pouff! It's nearly nine o'clock. The Zoo closes at five."

"Then where have they been since?"

"I don't believe it. It's only your silly imagination. And where were you this afternoon, if I may ask?"

"That's got nothing to do with it. I was going to be so happy, Turco—so good!"

"Why can't you keep on going to be as happy and so good?" he jeered.

"Because he's killed me!"

"Time you do care something for him!"

"I did."

"That's what I mean. You change for anything. You're like a postage stamp with the gum off—you won't stick."

Dora moved away, deeply offended; but what he said impressed her. She'd show Turco that she could stick—for a little while, anyway.

With a superhuman effort of will, she determined that she'd die rather than row with Ted over his visit to the Zoo with Mollie Brian and their subsequent doings. She'd even be pleasant to him.

But it galled her horribly. In the humiliation of pride it suffered, her soul grew a little. She had taken the first painful grip on self-control.

To be continued next week

The Golden Hope—*Continued from page 5*

"Hitchcock's coming," he called.

There was no answer. The next moment a falsetto whoop from the trail below duplicated his warning. Still no sign from the kitchen.

Scott stepped quickly to the door of Hitchcock's room. Lydia was not there. He ran to the kitchen. It, too, was empty; but the kettles were bubbling on the stove. As he stood uncertain, he heard Hitchcock shouting again, this time from the front door. He hurried across to meet him. The man from Twisp—long-legged, sandy, unshaven—was rolling out of his saddle, dragging bundles down from old Nell. Without a word, Scott began to help him.

"Well, See—Scoddy—how's every little thing at 'a' Golden Hope? Been lonesome without me?"

"Not on your life!"

Hitchcock stared.

"What's up?" he inquired owlishly.

"Huh—I'm not the one to have news." Lefty was non-committal. "What's new in Twisp?"

He was careful not to get between the newcomer and that door from which the padlock had been wrenched. Rather to his surprise, Hitchcock never glanced at it, but dropped down beside the heater in the living-room and began to roll himself a cigarette.

"Lots of things now in Twisp," he chuckled richly. "Church folks got so moral they started in to clean up the town. Tried to shut up the saloons. Run off the gamblers. Chased out all the dance-hall girls—before I got there."

His tone sank to a sort of dejection, but he took up the theme again, as Scott stood rigid, half way to the kitchen, stiffened in his tracks, listening.

"The girls from Bertrand's place went down to Paradise. Three more over t'other side of the divide at Clark's. One poor little devil just walked away on her two feet—scared wild. Old crazy Shanahan gave her a lift for 'bout fifteen miles up this way. But whatever the old skeesicks done with her— He came back without her, and he swore she just fell off his hind into the gulch—so that's the last of her."

"Yes—that's the last of her," echoed Scott.

"What you say?" bawled Hitchcock after him as he moved to the kitchen.

"I didn't say anything," Scott shouted back, then wheeled and came toward him. Hitchcock stumbled up, biting his cigarette in two, but managing finally to put the table between them.

"Now, don't you get mad—you fool boy!" he spluttered. "I'm yer friend. What's the matter with you, anyhow?"

Lefty stood stock-still for a moment. He rammed clenched hands deep into his pockets, and looked the bigger man up and down.

"Nothing—that's any of your business," he said at last, whirled, and went into the kitchen.

OUT there, he drew up in the middle of the room, all the devil there was in him—and it was not a little—boiling to the surface. She had said that he would understand before she left. He slavered at the memory of last night, when she had said it—of his faltering, humiliated confession to her, a dance-hall girl that the decent people of Twisp had turned out in the snow. This was what he, Lefty Scott, had set up to worship, had been so tender of, so ashamed before. This was what he had given Hitchcock's room in with its barred door. This was what he had armed with a gun, that she might defend herself from him—from him! She

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must have thought he was an easy mark! Where was she, anyhow? He ran and opened the back door.

There, crouched in the angle, she stood and looked at him, a bit of human wreckage, mute for the moment with terror. Yet there came a power out of that poor little figure that stilled him, stopped him like a cold hand. It was so her eyes had looked when he would have kissed her that night she wore the pink blouse and the pink ribbon in her hair.

"Well?" he demanded in a sort of groan.

"I—I heard," she breathed. "It's true. You wouldn't believe me if I told you how I came to be there in Twisp that way. After he—ran away—I tried to kill myself; but when they turned me out to die along with those other poor things—Oh, then I couldn't! And when I came here—and you mistook me for a decent girl—oh, I couldn't—I couldn't bear to tell you different!"

Without a word, Scott swung open the door behind him, his gesture ordering her in. She went submissively. Through the kitchen they tramped side by side, and stopped in the door of the living-room. Hitchcock looked up, blinked in bewilderment, then crowed:

"Well—look who's here!"

"Yes—she's here."

Scott spoke heavily. Lydia stood a moment in burning embarrassment, her gaze on the floor.

"May I"—she looked up fleetingly—"may I set the table now?" Then, in a stronger tone: "The supper's all ready. I've got fresh bread."

TAKING Scott's silence for consent, she hurried back to the kitchen, and shut the door. Hitchcock stared after her, and a slow grin grew on his face.

"Well, you durned old clam!" he leered at his partner. "My news was no news to you. You know more about what I was telling you than I did. The pick of the bunch, too! This ain't no dance-hall chicken. That's the girl I was telling you about. Spanish Sam brought her in from south of here. She didn't know she wasn't Mrs. Sam till he ditched her when he had to skip for knifing a man over a card game. But them pious folks in Twisp knew it, you bet. They chased her out with the rest. Say—she's some peach, all right. Just the sort of mama's girl that slick devil would pick up in a country town."

He got to his feet, started across, and saw where the lock had been wrenched off his room door. Lydia came in and began to set the table for them. Scott fetched her suit-case. Hitchcock stood fumbling at the marred jamb, a little slow at opening the question.

"I done that." Lefty didn't wait for him. "Busted it off to give the girl your room."

"Why—?" Hitchcock was beginning; but Scott shut him up with:

"Because it's the only place in the house fit to give a girl—a lady."

"A lady!" Hitchcock's voice veered and broke on a sort of squeak. "Is that what you call your little friend?"

Scott was sitting down the suit-case beside the bed. He came out, confronting the other man.

"Yes, I do. That's what I call her. And right here's where she's going to stay to-night—in a room with a perfectly good fastening to the door."

"Huh! Whose house is this, anyhow?"

"Yours. And if you behave yourself you can stay in it and eat some of the supper this girl's cooked."

"Well, I'll be—"

Lefty checked him again:

"Does that go? She packs a gun—that I gave her. She's to use it on any man that doesn't act to suit her—see?"

"Don't shoot—my hands are up!"

Hitchcock laughed boisterously and dropped into his place.

Scott sat at the end of the table, the girl on one hand, his partner on the other. He served the food. Lydia poured the coffee and handed it, but otherwise her eyes never left her plate. Hitchcock was sobered, by fits and starts. Had his drunk been a recent affair, he would by now have been himself; but he would glance at Lefty sitting there, eating sparingly, getting blacker and blacker, then snicker inanely, or try to get Lydia's eye in order to wink and jerk a thumb at Lefty.

"Beans is prime," he finally announced to the world at large.

No answer of any sort.

"Whoever cooked 'em can sure cook for me," he tried again.

"Cut it out," snapped Lefty.

"'Ll, whose money bought them beans I'm not allowed to mention?" complained Hitchcock. "Say, little gun lady, do you like that grouch over there, now's you've got him? I ain't as young,—nor

Is He Part of the U. S. A.?

HE lives in the United States, yet out of it. His name is Charles Laud, and one of his ancestors founded Loudville. The State of Maine claims that Loudville is a part of the United States, and has been trying for years to get possession of it: the residents of Loudville claim that they are citizens of Loudville and of nothing else.

Loudville is on Loud's Island. To get there you go to Newcastle, Maine, then to Damariscotta: there you hire any vehicle you can get that will drive you ten miles to Round Pond, where you search around for Joe Thompson, who sometimes runs a motor-boat to Loud's, and get him to ferry you over. You won't find any landing on Loud's Island—it might be of use to the United States, think the inhabitants, so they prefer to clamber over the sea-weed and rocks, taking a chance of getting wet.

Loudville has about 150 inhabitants. There are no streets; no lights; no buildings; no sewers; no telephone; no telegraph; no anything.

Nobody in Loudville pays any taxes; nobody votes.

There is only one tie with the outside world: three times weekly the mails come to Loudville. They didn't ask for the mails—they condescend to accept them from the government. As for paying for the mails—not a cent!

It all happened like this: Loudville is, geographically, a part of the town of Bristol. When Lincoln ran for his first term in 1860, Loudville voted. It went Democratic, all except a single vote. The town of Bristol went Republican. Under some pretext, Bristol contested Loudville's vote, and the vote was thrown out. Loudville got mad, and it has stuck mad ever since.

Never since that day has a soul in Loudville cast a vote. Never since that day has any one paid a cent of taxes, either in Bristol or to Maine or to the United States. Loudville did just what the South tried to do later—it seceded from the Union; and, by heck, it's never come back!

It never became a town of itself. It has refused to. It has resisted all pressure to become either a town, a village, a plantation, or anything else. It refused telephone and wire connection—Loudville is mad at the whole world.

When a United States officer landed in Loudville, during the Civil War, to enforce the draft, the householders met him with a bombardment of hot potatoes, and he retreated in confusion. Loudville is just as little interested in the present war, and claims that, since it is not a part of the United States, it will remain neutral, giving help to neither side.

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as good-lookin',—but I'm sure a heap better dispositioned."

"That's enough of that blab!"

Lefty's eyes blazed under slant brows, between which his forehead showed a curious little white triangle, point down. Hitchcock became speechless.

After the meal the two men went from the table straight over to the stove, sat down, and began to argue, their voices rising angrily. Lydie, going out and in to clear the table, moving with a hushed step, a downcast, furtive eye, discovered that they were wrangling about the mine. Scott, she made out, was leaving.

"Goin' to quit us—sold—like that? What have I done? You've stayed by it all winter; what makes you lay down on it now? What you goin' for?"

"Because I want to. I'll take old Nell—in the morning. I'll tell Buckley to send you over a mule from Traverse."

Lydie, having fingered out her bit of kitchen work as long as she could, came and stood in the back of the room. In the heat of their man's quarrel over the gold mine they seemed to have forgotten her; yet instantly Scott turned to her and said, shortly but not unkindly:

"Want to go to bed now?" She saw that the door of his sleeping-place was open, and a mattress and roll of blankets had been carried out and thrown into one of the bunks. "All right," he finished. "You keep the room you had."

She went meekly, like a dog ordered to bed; but on the threshold she turned and burst out:

"You're leaving in the morning. What about me?"

"You'll go along." Lefty was brief.

"Now, Scotty—" Hitchcock jumped to his feet.

"Shut your head!"

"I'll be hanged if I do. Have some sense, can't you? 'N' I'm not goin' to sleep in that other room, neither, and give up my place to a—"

"*Don't never say it,*" Scott stopped him. "Get yourself in there, like I told you to—see?—for your health."

The two eyed each other a long minute; then Hitchcock went slowly, like a man walking a shaky foot-log. When Scott turned to where Lydie had stood, she had slipped through her own door and shut it. He looked at the planks; a hand faltered out toward them. He turned sharply and followed Hitchcock, taking his time, while the other querulously protested, to drag out all his belongings into the living-room, ready to be packed.

It was not until this was completed, and Hitchcock had finally settled down and there was no sound from him, that Lefty went and tapped softly on Lydie's door.

"Asleep yet?"

"No-o-o." The girl's frightened tones sounded just behind the boards. "I—"

"All right. Five o'clock for ours. Shall I call you?"

"No—no. I'll be up—and get the coffee. I'll wake all right."

THE vast Northern night had shut down on that world of snowy peaks, of frozen steeps, against one of which the brown plank house with its fiery window eyes, its crested trail of smoke, made the one human challenge. After a time those windows were darkened; but Lefty, having packed, sat by the heater. It was nearly midnight. Hitchcock's long rasping snores had been sounding for hours, when the smoke-trail thinned itself to a mere tremble of warm air above the chimney-top. Lefty went and threw himself, dressed as he was, into the bunk, and pulled a blanket over him.

He scarcely thought to sleep, yet presently he lost himself, to be wakened by the smell of coffee and frying bacon, and—he thought—a light touch on his shoulder. For an instant he listened, bewildered, to Hitchcock still snoring. But there stood Lydie, dressed for the trail. The heater roared; a coffee-pot sat on it; there were plates and food at one end of the table.

"I—I'll put up the lunch while you eat." Lydie spoke very low. "I've had some coffee—it's all I want."

"In a minute," he said. "I'll feed the horse first," and hurried out.

When he came back and was eating his breakfast, and afterward, while he was gathering up the things to pack them on the horse, he noticed that Lydie was white and woe-begone. There were deep circles under the wide-apart black eyes; her mouth trembled; she looked heart-sick. He pitied her, and his own heart was lead in his breast. What was he going to do with her—like that? It hurt him worst to see the effort she made, running here and there, waiting on him, trying to lift things too heavy for her strength. Nothing was said of it between them, but both were in haste to get away while the snores still sounded from the inner room.

AT last they were done and on the trail in front of the house.

"Are—are you just going to leave your share here?" she asked piteously—"your share of the Golden Hope?"

"No; there's a man at Traverse wants to buy it."

"Oh, you're going to Traverse? Will—you—stay there?"

"No. I'll take what I get for my share of this. It won't be much, but I can make a start somewhere else."

Scott had packed the old horse so that there was a seat left for the girl.

"You'll ride as much as you can. You'd never make Traverse in a day afoot. But it's pretty cold now. Will you start riding or walking?"

"Oh, walking."

They set off side by side, the lead-rope over Scott's shoulder. In silence they made the twisted, sudden descent for a mile below the house, and came out on the Bench, where the great valley lay spread wide and white before them. For some little time he had been aware of her deep, sobbing breathe; she had fallen a little behind him. Now he halted suddenly with:

"Come, let me put you up. You ought to be riding."

She came and stood in front of him, a world of mysterious entreaty in the great tear-drowned eyes, the wrung little face.

"When—when you go—go on from Traverse," she began huskily, "are you going to—take me with you?"

"Well, what would you expect?"

"I've got no right to expect anything. But I hoped you might—anyhow, for a while. Still, that's just as you please, of course."

"Just as I please—just as *I* please, Lydie? Well, then we'll be married as soon as we get into Traverse."

"Married! Oh, oh, oh! Was that what you meant? You would marry me—me?"

She burst into a storm of wild weeping, plunged at him, caught the front of his coat in two little shaking hands, to throw her head back and stare up into his face, then burrow in against him and hide her eyes.

"Why, Lydie—Lydie—why would you take it like that? You knew—of course you did—that the fellow I told you about that had been in the pen was me."

"Yes—a man!" came her muffled protest. "But when a girl's disgraced there's no chance for a new start."

For a minute he let her cry it out against his shoulder, patting her, murmuring to her. Then he lifted her and held her in his arms, baby fashion.

"You poor kid," he whispered. "You poor little kid! How much now start do you reckon you need?"

He kissed her gravely, lifted her to old Nell's back, and stood a moment looking up at her, his hands still round her waist, there in the great world of snow and sky and dawn that was like a fresh page, on which almost anything might be written.

They fronted the sunrise.

"That's where you belong," he said softly. "Way up above me. But we'll make our new start together."

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